



EU-LAC Health Defining a Roadmap for Cooperative Health Research between the EU and Latin America- Caribbean Countries: a Policy Oriented Re- search

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Dear readers,

EU-LAC Health is a long-term project lasting for five years, from 2011 to 2016. This duration (a requirement of the European Commission) is understood now as a very useful one.

A joint initiative on research in the field of health between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean demands time even only to reach a common understanding of issues at stake, not to talk about reaching basic agreements. But all the time invested now in understanding will later render results.

Fortunately, the Senior Official Meeting (SOM), mandated to implement the Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation (JIRI), decided this year to launch a EU-CELAC* working group in the field of health. This is an excellent opportunity for EU-LAC Health to hand out its technical proposals to those that have to take key decisions, thus facilitating all the process if we manage to coordinate with each other.

EU-LAC Health, after its fourth workshop in Mexico DF in October, is beginning to frame specific recommendations for basic issues of a EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Health Research such as the Vision and Mission, tentative models of Governance (with capacity of evolution and adjustment according to timely scenarios and to different types of scientific

activities by dimension, scope) and Funding mechanisms (based in EU and LAC inclusiveness and flexible and variable geometry of country and stakeholders participation). The Co-leaders of the EU-CELAC JIRI health working group attended the workshop and gave recommendations.

This is only the beginning. A joint Strategic Research Agenda, peer review evaluation procedures for scientific activities, an assessment model of the Joint Initiative, and a Scientific Advisory Board, and maybe a Stakeholders Board need to be defined too. We have so many inter-related issues to prove this concept of research cooperation in health by evidence based implementation that we decided to approve a work plan covering the whole duration of the project and completing the description made in work packages.

The work plan 2011-2016 describes the project in four stages: Analysis of the state of play, Scenario building and gap analysis, Defining the Road-map, and Implementing the Joint Initiative on Health Research. We are now at the second stage. We will fulfil the four if we continue building mutual trust and co-responsibility as we have done so far.

The ISCIII team.

*CELAC stays for Comunidad de Estados de Latinoamérica y Caribeños.

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EU-LAC Health at a glance

EU-LAC HEALTH is a five-years coordination action co-financed by the European Commission through the 7th Framework Program (Health Theme). **It proposes to define a detailed plan to guide policy makers and other stakeholders on future actions to support cooperative health research between Latin America and Caribbean countries (LAC) and EU Member States.** This consensus Roadmap will be developed using a policy oriented approach and taking into account the new political framework for EU-LAC collaboration in S&T. The Roadmap will provide policy-makers and R&D funding bodies with new insights on how to best coordinate and fund cooperative health research between the two regions.

An important effort is being devoted during the project to link and coordinate two important policy areas with strong involvement in health research funding: Science and Technology Policy (research) and International Development Cooperation.

The EU-LAC bi-regional collaboration in the field of health research stands as a very broad and complex issue that involves many stakeholders from different political and socio-economic contexts, including the EU as a whole, each Member State and the variety of LAC countries, and touches different political agendas such as research, but sometimes also development cooperation and external relations.

The Carlos III Institute of Health (ISCIII,

Spain), Sociedad para el Fomento de la Innovación Tecnológica SL (INNOVATEC, Spain), Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED, Switzerland/Mexico), the Ministry of Science and Technology of Argentina (MINCYT), the Ministry of Health of Costa Rica (MSCR), the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz, Brazil), the Agency for the Promotion of Research (APRE, Italy), and the German Center for Aerospace, Energy and Transportation Research (DLR, Germany) together form a well-balanced multidisciplinary team with participants from health research policy-making institutions, R&D funding agencies, research centers and a specialized R&D consulting company.

The key objectives of EU-LAC Health

- ◆ Discuss and explore, with policy-makers and other stakeholders, how to best coordinate health research policies and funding between EU and LAC.
- ◆ Define a consensus Roadmap for cooperative health research with the final objective of setting up a future framework for collaboration between the EU and LAC regions in the field.
- ◆ Promote the creation of a coordinating body to implement and develop the Roadmap.
- ◆ Disseminate the project results to the main project stakeholders as a means to increase and improve EU-LAC cooperation in health research.

Overview on project events

First Roadmapping Workshop: International Funding Coordination



ELABORATING THE SCIENTIFIC SCOPE AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EU-LAC HEALTH RESEARCH ROADMAP

Mexico City, 16th -17th October 2013

Health research experts, research programme managers and decision makers from EU and LAC countries, as well as EU-LAC Health Advisory Board Members and project partners joined in Mexico City for two days with the objective to hold the first Roadmapping-Workshop. The experts came together to discuss three different dimensions of the roadmap to be developed: the scientific, the governance and the funding dimension. Outcomes

the vision & the mission of the ambitious project to the audience.

Scientific areas of potential mutual interest for EU and LAC regions identified for the scientific part of the roadmap were determined via a questionnaire directed to qualified institutions of countries belonging to both regions (e.g. research and health ministries). Determined health research areas important for both regions are: Infection, Chronic diseases, Health and Social Care Services

Access. Discussions on funding focused on identifying different research activities that need to be financed when collaborating and trying to estimate an adequate budget for such research collaboration.

The possibility of launching a pilot EU-LAC joint call in the area of health research via the new ERANet-LAC was discussed. It was commonly agreed that a pilot joint call between both regions would be an important milestone that could function as a best-



from the different expert discussions will flow into the future Roadmap that will give answers to questions such as “how can EU-LAC cooperation in health research be financed efficiently?”, “what governance structures will be needed?”, “which scientific areas would be enriched through a bi-regional cooperation”?

This roadmap will be continuously developed including discussions and the advice of active scientists, policymakers, programme owners and other stakeholders. The overall objective is an efficient coordination of health research policies and funding that will be beneficial for both sides.

After the welcome by Dr. Malaquias López-Cervantes from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), the workshop was opened by the EU-LAC Health project team emphasizing the importance of international research cooperation especially in health research as well as clarifying

Research, Cancer, Neurological Diseases and stroke as well as Prevention of diseases and promotion of well-being. Following this, the content was analyzed focused on four different fields within the discussion groups: 1. what is the added value derived through EU-LAC health research cooperation in this specific field and is it well stated? 2. Would EU-LAC health research cooperation in this area be feasible? 3. What will the long-term impact of cooperation in this area be? 4. How would you prioritize the topics identified?

Governance issues were discussed by means of further developing the values and principles of a “Governing Body”, such as Excellence, Tackling Global Challenges, Co-Responsibility, Inclusiveness, and further elaborating principles such as Co-Ownership, Variable geometry, Virtual common Pots, Brain-Circulation and Open-

practice example for the project as well as towards a more institutionalized EU-LAC health research cooperation. The EU-LAC Health project would – from the basic work already done by the project – be able to suggest specific EU-LAC health research topics to the ERANet-LAC. A joint call together with the ERANet-LAC may be implemented at the end of 2014.

Outcomes and results of all active discussions will be used to further develop the roadmap. The feedback from the discussions and the enthusiastic and committed reactions of the audience showed that there is a great potential and need for a common and effective approach to institutionalize EU-LAC cooperation in health research.

The next EU-LAC Health workshop will take place in Madrid the 26th and 27th of February 2014.

Second Scenario Building Workshop: Analyzing the scientific scope and governance structures in the development of an effective EU-LAC Health Cooperation



Rome, Italy, 11th—12th April 2013

How can EU-LAC cooperation in health research be financed efficiently? What governance structures are needed? Which scientific areas would be enriched by the bi-regional cooperation? These are the main questions that were addressed during the second “Scenario Building Workshop” implemented by the EU-LAC Health Project. European and Latin American health sector experts met with project partners and the project’s Advisory Board in order to discuss potential scientific areas and possible funding mechanisms for coordinated joint health research collaboration.

The workshop was opened by Maria Uccelatore, *Director of EU Programmes Office of Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research* and Alfredo Cesario, *Delegate of the Direction General for Research, Italian Ministry of Health* emphasizing the importance of international cooperation between LAC and EU for the scientific development.

The workshop was organized on how to practically implement EU-LAC cooperation, dealing with a scientific and a governance part, according

to the planned roadmap. Active discussions were led during the sessions designed ad hoc and advices from the interaction with LAC and EU experts will flow into the roadmap. The group discussions on specific scientific fields of health research were each introduced by a presentation of an expert in that field.

The workshop objectives were reached and will be the basis for further specification in the workshops to come :

- Potential scientific areas for beneficial EU-LAC cooperation, identified from a survey to funding and research institutions, were discussed in the different groups including experts in those particular fields. The analysis showed that in these fields the identification of the added value from such cooperation as well as the feasibility to conduct joint research are considered very important aspects.

- The SWOT analysis of different possibilities for funding such cooperation that had been previously developed could further be specified. The discussions made clear that it is of utmost importance to have a common understanding of possible funding mechanisms and instruments able to support this collaboration.

The workshop and the very active discussions emphasized that there is a great potential and need for both sides for a common and effective approach to institutionalize EU-LAC cooperation in health research. Important progress in this regard has already been made with establishing an initial set of priority areas for the two regions and in gaining an overview on possible mechanisms for governing and effectively funding such cooperation. However, these governing and funding mechanisms will have to be further explored and adjusted to the special needs of EU-LAC cooperation.



Project’s members and participants in the last day of the workshop held in Rome.

First Scenario Building Workshop held in Buenos Aires, 22nd and 23rd October 2012— Main outcomes



The first “Scenario Building Workshop” in Buenos Aires. Project partners, as well as Advisory Board members came together with European and Latin American experts from the health sector in order to analyze different scenarios of possible common funding mechanisms for joint health research collaboration.

In order to sort possibilities for a common funding of bi-regional research cooperation initiatives, three different scenarios developed in deskwork prior to the meeting were presented during the second part of the workshop. These were examined through an in-depth SWOT– analysis by the partners,

experts and project advisors. Many strengths and opportunities such as already existing well working funding mechanisms and bilateral agreements were exemplified. However, it was pointed out that weaknesses and threats such as the difficulty of harmonizing several countries’ interests or the difficulty of collecting resources from participating countries have to be kept in mind. This SWOT– analysis has been seen as



First day session of the Buenos Aires workshop

a success by the participants allowing the partners to better anticipate the risks and opportunities when it actually comes to realistically plan.

EU-LAC Health State of Play Workshop held in Rio de Janeiro, 19th and 20th March 2012— Main outcomes



Second day session of Rio de Janeiro workshop

The first EU-LAC Health expert-workshop, organized by FIOCRUZ, took place in Rio de Janeiro.

Altogether, the eight project partners, along with invited high-level Advisory Board-Members as well as several external experts from the European Union (EU) and from Latin America

and the Caribbean (LAC) countries, discussed the current state of the EU-LAC Health research collaboration and planned future activities.

In the workshop the project partners presented an analysis of the present situation of the R&D on health in the LAC and the EU, the identification of research for health funding programs and the existing legal framework of Science & Technology collaboration between LAC and EU. It was generally acknowledged that both regions have a strong scientific potential but

the differences between and within the two regions have to be kept in mind when collaboration is envisaged.

The vivid discussions were enriched by short presentations of some of the invited external experts sharing their experiences in relation to research collaboration, capacity building and mobility.

COHRED, APRE, ISCIII and Fiocruz prepared technical documents on the state of play of health research in LAC and EU countries, funding programs between the two regions, and on the current framework of science and technology cooperation between the EU and LAC countries. These reports were the mainstay of the discussions during the event.

EULAC Health Advisory Board in the spotlight

Is it worth the travel? International collaboration in the field of occupational safety and health

*A German perspective by Katja Radon**

What makes international cooperation interesting for specialists and researchers from the LAC region and the EU? Why are a German university like the Ludwig-Maximilian-University (LMU) and its University Hospital – ranking high in international rankings and focusing on research - interested in cooperation with Latin America? These were the questions I was frequently facing by researchers when I started to organize international summer schools with focus on participants from Latin America and planned – encouraged by and in collaboration with colleagues from Latin America - the Master of Science program in International Occupational Safety and Health at LMU (www.osh-munich.de). But

there were more questions: What will be the outcome of such training programs? Will they help to improve occupational safety and health in both regions? Is this a relevant topic for both regions? Is it really necessary to do this training onsite – nowadays, online training might be much more efficient. Such questions were raised by funding agencies and policy makers.

Since then we are regularly evaluating the mid-term impact of our summer schools. Results show that almost 80% of our participants actually apply the knowledge they have gained during the courses – mainly in teaching and for occupational safety and health planning purposes. Participants report an increased confidence at the job level as well as at a personal level. Almost 90% are still in contact with the peers for professional reasons. About a quarter of participants had even started international collaborations with their course peers.

In 2012 our international Master

program started. Within these few months we already see a much closer collaboration and international exchange in this program – e.g., students from one country doing their internship at the institution of a peer in a neighboring country. Furthermore, the first scientific presentations at international conferences and peer-reviewed papers are being submitted – on topics which would have never been possible to study in Europe. Lecturers coming from LAC and EU also have intensified their collaboration. What still needs to be shown is the long-term impact on workers safety and health. More time is needed for this approach.

In conclusion, by now most doubts could be dispelled: international training programs result in international collaboration and scientific advancement. Such results cannot be obtained without personal contact. Thus I would like to encourage international training on health specific issues crossing the borders between LAC and Europe – but also between LAC countries.

*About the author

Katja Radon received her master training in epidemiology at McGill University, Canada. Since 2001 she is head of the Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology & Net teaching Unit at the WHO Collaborating Center for Occupational Health at LMU Munich.

She is a founding member of the BMZ/DAAD funded LMU Center for Interna-

tional Health (CIH^{LMU}). The CIH^{LMU} is one of five German centers of excellence for development cooperation (www.cih.lmu.de). Within this center she is coordinator of occupational safety and health short-term courses in Latin America and the international Master program “International Safety and Health”.



FP7 Joint EU-LAC Research projects

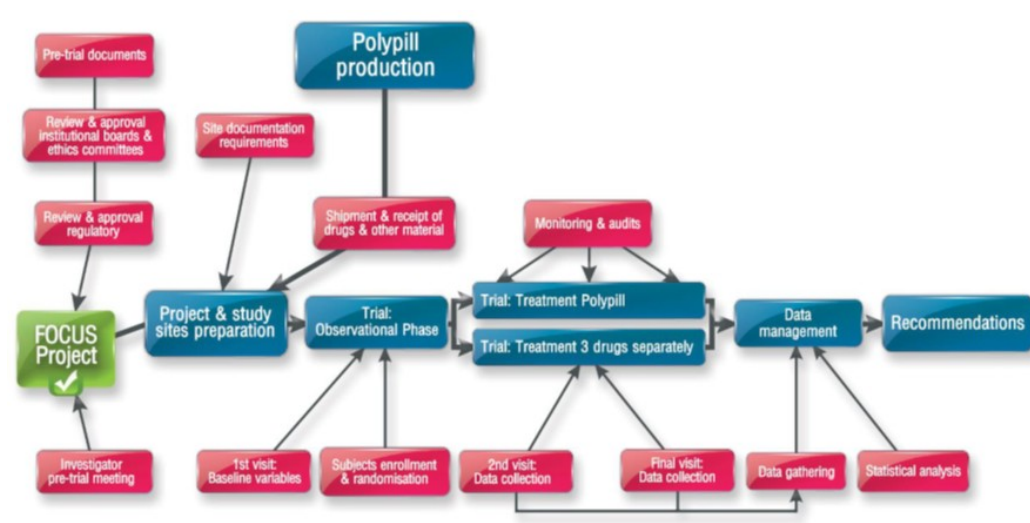
FOCUS (Fixed dose combination drugs for secondary cardiovascular prevention): a project funded by European Commission - FP 7- where European and Latin American partners are performing joint research activities

The general aim of the **FOCUS** project is to improve secondary prevention in patients with previous myocardial infarction by improving equitable access to medication in emerging countries and improving adherence to treatment. The project includes the comprehensive analysis of factors precluding appropriate use of cardiovascular prevention interventions and also plans to prove the *Fixed Dose Combination* concept in a variety of social and economic settings. Due to the social and economic differences between *Europe and South America* it was considered appropriate to make a *balanced comparison between the five participant countries, Spain and Italy in Europe and Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay in South America.*

The specific objective of the **FOCUS** project is to prove that:

- A) Better knowledge of factors relates to inappropriate use of secondary cardiovascular prevention drugs and lack of adherence to treatment will help to design new strategies for improving patients' management.
- B) A Fixed Dose Combination (FDC, *polypill*) including three components with a well demonstrated efficacy will improve secondary prevention in coronary patients by decreasing inappropriate prescribing and by reducing complexity of treatment and lack of adherence.

A better knowledge of the different health structures in the participant countries and the opportunity of have an affordable treatment will help to improve secondary cardiovascular prevention by improving adherence to treatment and therefore reducing the recurrence of new events.



The funding of projects which include countries outside the EU allows for the analysis of socioeconomic and cultural factors involved in the development of diseases. This type of analysis is only possible if a variety of countries from different regions are included.

The findings and conclusions obtained in FOCUS will allow the drafting of recommendations that will provide useful guidance and will serve as a reference framework for all stakeholders - pharmaceutical companies, clinicians, policy makers and international organisations - involved in tackling major challenges related to secondary prevention and treatment of chronic diseases in developing countries and beyond.

Successful completion of FOCUS will pave the way for making available and affordable secondary cardiovascular prevention medication to a huge number of patients in developing and developed regions. The results of the project will be widely disseminated to promote rapid adoption of the FDC concept for secondary cardiovascular prevention and to encourage new Research and technological development (RTD) initiatives investigating the FDC concept for other therapies. FOCUS will thereby contribute to addressing a major health issue, reducing human suffering and avoiding a large number of deaths.

For further information, please visit the website: <http://www.focus-fp7.eu>

Best practice in health research cooperation

The European Commission funds the new project Equity-LA II



The impact of alternative care integration strategies on Health Care Networks' performance in different Latin American health systems.

The new research project which continues the Equity-LA aims to evaluate the effectiveness of different care integration strategies in improving coordination and quality of care of health of Integrated Health care Networks

(IHN) in different health care system.

The study adopts a quasi-experimental design to evaluate complex interventions, with a participatory action-research approach. Policy makers, health professionals, managers, users and researches will participate in all stages of the project.

The project is expected to contribute to the improvement of the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of Latin American healthcare systems by providing evidence on best practices of care integration.

The institutions participating in the project are: Prince Leopold Instituut Voor Tropische Geneeskunde

(Belgium), Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora de Rosario (Colombia), Instituto de Medicina Integral Prof. Fernando Figueira and Fundação Universidade de Pernambuco (Brazil), Universidad de Chile (Chile), Universidad Veracruzana (Mexico), Universidad de Rosario, Instituto de la Salud Juan Lazarte (Argentina), Universidad de la República (Uruguay) and Consorci de Salut i Social de Catalunya (coordinator - Spain).

The project is funded by the European Commission within the 7th Framework Programme (FP7).

For further information visit: <http://www.equity-la.eu/the-project>

EU-LAC Health has interviewed a coordinator of FP7 project where EU and LAC countries are performing joint research

Equity-LA: a quick view of the collaboration

by Dr. Rejane Ferreira*



The European Union, through its Seventh Framework Programme encourages the formation of consortia between European and other countries in the world to release funding for research projects of common interest and mutual benefit.

As a result of the adoption of this pol-

icy, the participating institutions have the ability to improve their technological potential of job creation, training and capacity building of researchers in all areas of knowledge.

Furthermore, the results of the combined effort of these institutions in the context of research, development and innovation can generate knowledge to overcome financial crises, improve economic growth and preserve social stability and security.

Thus, it is important for governments to set as a priority in the field of science and technology, the creation of strategies that encourage institutions to expand, not only raising funds, but above all, a partnership of international cooperation.

* About the author

Rejane Maria Ferreira da Silva has a PhD in Public Health from Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona (UAB). She is currently Associate Professor at the University of Pernambuco and CPqAM/ Oswaldo Cruz Foundation. She is member of GRAAL – a Research Group in Africa and Latin America, linked to UAB. Currently, she coordinates in Brazil the research project “Impact on equity of access and efficiency of integrated networks of health services in Colombia and Brazil”, financed by the European Union (Equity-LA). She also participated as evaluator of projects within the FP7 - European Commission in 2010. Finally, Dr Rejane Maria worked as a researcher in several national and international research projects.

News and calls

HORIZON 2020: First calls publication foreseen for 11th December 2013

Horizon 2020 is the EU's successor programme to FP7 and will fund EU-level research and innovation during the period 2014 - 2020. The new programme will see the EU contribute over €70 billion to support the EU's position as a world leader in science, help secure industrial leadership in innovation, and help address major concerns shared by all Europeans.

Horizon 2020 provides major simplification through a single set of rules. It will combine all research and innovation funding currently

provided through the Framework Programmes for Research and Technical Development, the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP4) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT5).

The proposed support for research and innovation under Horizon 2020 will:

- ◆ Strengthen the EU's position in science with a dedicated budget of € 24 341 million. This will provide a boost to top-level research in Europe, including the very successful European Research Council (ERC6).
- ◆ Strengthen industrial leadership in innovation € 17 015 million. This includes major investment in key technologies, greater access to capital and support for SMEs.
- ◆ Provide € 30 956 million to help address major concerns shared by all Europeans such as climate change, developing sustainable transport and mobility, making renewable energy more affordable, ensuring food safety and security, or coping with the challenge of an ageing population.

Horizon 2020 will be the main EU funding programme of relevance to the

National Health Systems, with opportunities throughout these three key areas: health, demographic change and well-being.

The 'Health, demographic change and well-being' theme alone has an indicative budget of €7-8 billion to cover the seven years, providing significant financial support for associated Euro-

pean research and innovation work.

The Commission's plans outline in broad terms how it intends to target its funding, with activities including; understanding the determinants of health (including environmental and climate related factors); improving health promotion and disease prevention; understanding disease and improving diagnosis; developing effective screening programmes and improving the assessment of disease susceptibility; improving surveillance and preparedness; developing better preventive vaccines; using in-silico medicine for improving disease management and prediction; treating disease; transferring knowledge to clinical practice and scalable innovation actions; better use of health data; active ageing, independent and assisted living; individual empowerment for self-management of health; promotion of integrated care; improving scientific tools and methods to support policy making and regulatory needs; and optimising the efficiency and effectiveness of health-care systems and reducing inequalities by evidence based decision making and dissemination of best practice, and innovative technologies and approaches.

International cooperation will be an important cross-cutting priority of

Horizon 2020. Recognising the global nature of producing and using knowledge, Horizon 2020 will be built on the success of international cooperation in previous framework programmes and **will be fully opened to participation from third countries**. While being open to participation to the world, funding will be more focused, allowing participants who bring exceptional cooperation skills and resources, and those from less wealthy countries, to benefit. The association of countries to the programme, where participants have identical rights to

those from Member States, will continue to include some of EU's closest partner countries.

A key part of international cooperation in Horizon 2020 will be developing partnerships with Member States through coordinated or joint ventures with third country partners and international organisations. As all the funding schemes allow the participation of international partners in consortia, and can be tailored to the specific requirements of the research and innovation being supported, no specific international cooperation funding schemes are foreseen in Horizon 2020. There will, however, be a mechanism for supporting joint calls and the possibility of programme co-funding with third countries or international organisations.

The publication of the **first calls for proposals are foreseen for the 11th December 2013**, according to a new timeline from the European Commission. A series of Horizon 2020 national launch events will also take place from October 2013 to January 2014.

Further information : <http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/horizon-2020-health-open-info-daysen.html>

Source: NHS Confederation and European Commission websites

News and calls

ALCUE NET: First INCO Net led by Latin America

To support the international dimension of science, technology and innovation to enhance bi-regional cooperation, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentina as project coordinator, organized the meeting to launch ALCUE NET (Network for Research and Innovation Union EU-Latin America and Caribbean) held on April 18 and 19 2013 at the offices of the German Permanent Representation in Brussels. This event was scheduled as part of the next Senior Officials Meeting (SOM).

The project ALCUE NET, funded by the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), which commenced on December 1st, 2012, proposed an initiative to support the political dialogue for Research and Innovation in order to establish a platform for EU-LAC that brings together the actors involved in R&D information, funding and implementation, as well as other relevant stakeholders in the public, private sectors and the civil society. The project aims at supporting bi-regional political dialogue EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI) during 2013-2016 (technical support structure) to reflect the suggestions and recommendations of the SOM working groups. For the first time a Latin American institution is the coordinator of a project dedicated to supporting INCO Net bi-regional dialogue. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation is the coordinator of a consortium of 19 institutions, 11 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 8 from Europe.

The launching meeting laid the foundation for a fruitful cooperation during the project. The main objective was to develop a mutual understanding of the activities of the working plan as defined in the project proposal (with a special focus on the activities to be performed during the first year) and to clarify the administrative and financial matters related to project implementation.

49 people participated on this occasion. All members were present except the Ministry of Science and Technology of Brazil. From the European Commission, four representatives of the Directorate General for Research and Innovation participated: Laurent Bocherou, International Cooperation Manager, Sigi Gruber, Head of Unit DG Research&Innovation; Indridi Benediktsson, Project Officer, and Anna Konstantatou, Legal Officer&Project Negotiator. Minister Alejandra Ayuso from the Embassy of Argentina before the European Commission also attended, the Head of the Permanent Representation of Germany to the European Union, Erik Hansalek (who opened the event and welcomed those present), and the coordinators of 6 projects: ALCUE NET, EU-LAC HEALTH, AMERICAS, AL-INVEST, EUCARINET, ENLACE, EU-LAC KBBE, and ENSOCIO-LA.



About the project

To achieve its overall objective, ALCUE NET is built both on the basis of previous experience and results and of ongoing FP7 projects as well. These initiatives will be considered to promote the complementarity with the activities carried out under other EU programs, in particular those related to foreign policy. In particular, the progress made by both regions that participate in the FP7 EULARINET joint project (Research and Innovation Net-

work between LAC and EU) whose activities were designed to identify views on specific issues, coordinate activities and identify priorities for common interest will be taken into account.

ALCUE NET shall contribute to extend cooperation beyond research to address innovation issues:

- Structuring and strengthening bi-regional cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)
- To support the bi-regional political dialogue in STI

- Monitor the progress of the bi-regional cooperation in STI

At a specific level, the project focuses on:

- A. Achieving progress towards overall improvement of the key aspects of the social challenges related to food security, energy and climate change.
- B. Support political dialogue at all relevant levels
- C. Strengthening cooperation
- D. Increasing the effectiveness and impact

News and calls

EU-LAC Health-Project will support the new Working Group on Health created in the last SOM in April 2013

The aim of EU-LAC Health is to provide a Roadmap giving recommendations to policy-makers and other stakeholders about future actions to support cooperative health research between the EU and LAC countries. At the same time, the project will support the **Working Group on Health** recently launched by the EU-CELAC (Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States) Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation at its last Senior Official Meeting (SOM), 16th–17th April 2013 in Brussels.

Background information: On 26-27 January 2013, it was held the 1st EU-

CELAC Summit (7th EU-LAC Summit) for the Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation which brought together European, Latin American and Caribbean Heads of State and Government in Santiago (Chile). During the



Summit, the leaders adopted a political Declaration and for bi-regional cooperation and endorsed the so called EU-CELAC Action Plan 2013-2015. The Action Plan identifies instruments and activities which, if properly imple-

mented, should lead to concrete results guaranteeing ownership and capacity building in the following key areas: Bio economy, including food security, Renewable energies, Biodiversity/ Climate Change, ICT for meeting societal challenges.

Under the frame of the above mentioned Action Plan, it was celebrated the third Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in April 2013 in Brussels. A new working group on Health, co-chaired by Spain and Brazil, was created. This Working Group will be supported by the EU-LAC-Health project coordinated by ISCIII.

EU-LAC Health Future Activities: Second Roadmapping Workshop “Creation of a Coordinating Body”



The next EU-LAC Health workshop will be held in **Madrid on 26th and 27th February 2014.**

This 2nd Roadmap Workshop will be oriented to

- ◆ Defining the proposed mission for the organism
- ◆ Defining the organizational structure and governing structure
- ◆ Defining the operating model of the organism,
- ◆ Defining the coordination with the FP7 and other FP7 and EU Member States actions in LAC;
- ◆ Estimating the Financial Plan (both to cover operational costs and R&D funding).
- ◆ Define indicators to measure the level of implementations of the Coordination Unit., etc.

Further information will be available soon on the project website (www.eulachealth.eu) .

News and calls

ERANet-LAC - Network of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean Countries on Joint Innovation and Research Activities

ERANet-LAC is a Network of the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on Joint Innovation and Research Activities. It will strengthen the bi-regional partnership in Science, Technology and Innovation by planning and implementing concrete joint activities and by creating a sustainable framework for future bi-regional joint activities.

Focusing on the priorities defined in the JIRI process, ERANet-LAC will implement two joint calls seeking to coordinate and cluster research programmes, mutually open research infrastructures and coordinate and open innovation programmes. These joint activities will function as a basis for the development of a roadmap and an EU-CELAC Platform for Funding Agencies. The EU-CELAC platform will serve as information and communica-

tion pool offering ST&I guidelines as well as online working spaces to enhance the development of concrete future bi-regional joint initiatives.

ERANet-LAC will further lay a special focus on the innovation dimension. The project will seek to involve European and Latin American innovation agencies in the joint activities as well as in trust-building actions and common procedures that will constitute the basis for long-term coordination actions.

In concrete terms, the project will foster the involvement of numerous national and international research and innovation funding organizations from Latin-America and Europe. The specific initiatives will be demand-driven through a bottom-up approach, guaranteeing a real interest from both sides. This means that researchers from both regions will have the oppor-

tunity to actively participate in bi-regional R&I projects initiated by ERANet-LAC.

Due to the connection between both projects that is made by the regional focus, a cooperation between ERANet-LAC and EU-LAC Health is envisaged. EU-LAC Health – determining in a longer dialogue with policy-makers, health researchers and scientists priority fields for EU-CELAC health research cooperation – is going to provide suggestions for a potential joint call in health research that could then be implemented by the new ERANet-LAC.

The ERANet-LAC kick-off meeting will take place from 11th to 13th November 2013 with all project partners in Berlin, Germany. The project will last 42 months, from October 2013 to March 2017.

ERANet-LAC partners

From EU

- ◆ **Germany, German Aerospace Centre, Project Management Agency DLR - coordination**
- ◆ Finland, Academy of Sciences
- ◆ France, Research Institute for Development IRD
- ◆ Norway, Research Council of Norway RCN
- ◆ Portugal, Foundation for Science and Technology FCT
- ◆ Romania, Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding UEFISCDI
- ◆ Spain, Ministry of Economics and Competition MINECO and Latin-American Program of Science and Technology towards Development FECYT - CYTED
- ◆ Turkey, National Council for Science and Technological Research TUBITAK

From CELAC

- ◆ Argentina, Ministry for Science, Technology and Productive Innovation MINCYT
- ◆ Barbados, Caribbean Science Foundation CSF
- ◆ Brazil, National Council for Science and Technological Development CNPq
- ◆ Chile, National Council for Science and Technological Research CONICYT
- ◆ Mexico, National Council for Science and Technology CONACYT
- ◆ Panama, National Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation SENACYT
- ◆ Peru National Council for Science, Technology and Technological Innovation CONCYTEC
- ◆ Uruguay, Ministry of Education and Culture MEC

Relevant Events

Open Info Day—Horizon 2020 ‘Health, demographic change and wellbeing’ - first funding round

When : Friday 22 November 2013

Where: Centre Albert Borschette, rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels

Horizon 2020, the EU’s new programme for investment in research and innovation, is expected to include more than 7 billion eur for the ‘Health, demographic change and

wellbeing’ challenge.

This event will prepare all the applicants for the first funding round, expected for the 11th of December this year. It will give essential information on how to develop a good project proposal

go through the application process,

step by step

help to find Project partners and get answers to your questions.

A detailed programme will follow soon:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/horizon-2020-health-open-info-daysen.html>

2nd GRF One Health Summit Conference - 17th to 20th November 2013 Davos, Switzerland

The 2nd GRF One Health Summit 2013 promotes and fosters an integrative approach in managing health risks at the interface of human-, animal- and environmental health with a strong link to food safety and security and to agriculture. Striving for intensified collaboration among experts and practitioners from the different sectors and disciplines tangent to such a comprehensive health perspective, in particular the pharmaceutical and food industry as well as health

insurers’ engagement will provide significant added value to identify cost-effective measures.

GRF Davos aims to pool the concepts of One Health and Integrative Risk Management (Integrative Health Risk Management) to save lives and livelihoods, improve public health and reduce costs.

This integrative management strategy will be a key tool to ensure sustainable public health in an era

of climate change, resource depletion, land degradation, urbanisation, food insecurity and development challenges.

For further information: <http://onehealth.grforum.org>



6th European Conference on Tobacco or Health, Istanbul, Turkey, 27-29 March 2014

Turkey has a long history in the fight against tobacco whose first law became effective in 1996. The new legislation was brought in 2008 with a major tobacco ban and the the legislation was expanded to a higher standard, with comprehensive smoke legislation in 2009. The country was listed among the top five in 2010 European Tobacco Control Scale for European countries. With the latest regulations in 2012, Turkey is going on its way to be a tobacco free country. Turkey also has a unique geography since it’s located at the intersection of

three continents. On the other hand, Istanbul is the largest city of the modern Turkey with a bridge connecting not only East and West, but also the past and the future. In this context "capital of the three greatest empires in history" offers a unique experience with its colorful daily life, historical sites of various ancient civilizations and delightful tastes of its rich cuisine. We extremely glad to invite you to our congress to share this exciting atmosphere with us. This conference is a must for policy makers, scientists, health educators,

advocacy officers and health professionals involved in tobacco control.

For more information about ECTOH 2014: <http://ectoh.org/>



Related Projects

The Human Brain Project (HBP), is a ten-year, large-scale European research initiative whose goal is to understand the human brain and its diseases and ultimately to emulate its computational capabilities.

The ramp-up phase of the project is funded by the FP7 for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013), as part of the FET Flagship Programme.

HBP has reserved a portion of its ramp-up phase funding for specific tasks to

ENLACE (Enhancing Scientific Cooperation between the European Union and Central America) is a project funded by the European Commission, under the FP7 for Research and Technological Development - International Cooperation. The project ENLACE aims at supporting the bi-regional dialogue

EUCARINET is a four-year INCONET Coordination Action, supported by the European Commission (DG RTD-INCO), whose main goal is to strengthen bi-regional sustainable dialogue on Science and Technology between Europe and the Caribbean.

The project consortium includes 11

ALCUE-NET objective is to establish an EU-LAC platform bringing together actors involved in R&I orientation, funding and implementation, as well as other relevant stakeholders from the public and private sector and the civil society, in an effort to (i) generate relevant information for the de-

be carried out by new beneficiaries who will join the consortium in 2014. these new beneficiaries will be selected from proposals submitted in response to this Competitive Call. The following are eligible to participate in the HBP Competitive Call:

- . any legal entity established in an EU Member State or an associated country or created under EU law;
- . Any international European interest organization;
- . Any legal entity established in an FP7

between the EU and the Central America Countries and includes a set of activities to enhance the networking among EU and Central America researchers through the organization of S&T dialogues, to identify research priorities of mutual interest and to raise awareness on

partners, 5 from the EU and 6 from the Caribbean, representing stakeholders from research, industry, government and civil society, that will ensure the fulfillment of EUCARINET's objectives.

EUCARINET targets the whole of the Caribbean region: the ACP group of

sign and implementation of specific plans and projects including R&D activities and set the basis for the establishment of an enabling policy and institutional environment for R&I better focused on addressing societal challenges and, where appropriate, key enabling technologies of com-

international cooperation partners countries. International organizations, other than an international European interest organization, or a legal entity established in a third country other than an associated country or international cooperation partner country may also participate but without EU funding. More

information:  **HBP**
The Human Brain Project
<http://www.humanbrainproject.eu/participate/competitive-calls-programme>

FP7 in Central America mainly by setting up the network of FP7 National Contact Point in Central America. Project website: <http://www.enlace-project.eu>



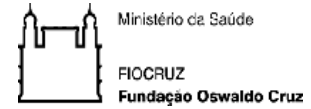
states, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the overseas Departments and Collectivities, the Overseas Countries and Territories. Project website: <http://www.eucarinet.eu/>



mon interest, and (ii) to support the development of more strategic and result-oriented partnerships in the context of bi-regional policy cooperation frameworks.



EU-LAC Health Partners



EU-LAC Health Coordination

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