Latin America

EULARINET -

Coordinating Latin America Research and Innovation NETworks

"The EULARINET project is serving as an umbrella for the on-going EU-LAC cooperation in S&T"

WEB SITE: www.S2lat.eu/eularinet

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Organisation name	Acronym	Country
Ministry of Science and Innovation – Coordinator	MICINN	Spain
Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation	MINCYT	Argentina
Centre for Social Innovation	ZSI	Austria
National Council for Scientific and Technological Development	CNPq	Brazil
National Commission of Scientific and Technological Research	CONICYT-CL	Chile
Colombian Institute for the Develop- ment of Science and Technology	COLCIENCIAS	Colombia
Academy of Finland	AKA	Finland
Agricultural Research Centre for International Development	CIRAD	France
Institute for Research and Development	IRD	France
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	BMBF	Germany
International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research	PT-DLR	Germany
National Council of Research and Technology	CONACYT	Mexico
Nicaraguan Council for Science and Technology	CONICYT-NI	Nicaragua
The Research Council of Norway	RCN	Norway
Agency of Innovation	ADI	Portugal
Foundation for Science and Technology	FCT	Portugal
Polytechnic University of Madrid	UPM	Spain
Spanish Agency of the Council for Scientific Research	CSIC	Spain
Ministry of Education and Culture - CUBIST	MEC-CUBIST	Uruguay

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

EULARINET aims at strengthening bi-regional dialogue on S&T between EU Member States, Associated States and Latin American Partner Countries (LAPC) contributing to a three-fold objective:

- promoting the joint identification, establishment, implementation and monitoring of priorities of mutual interest and benefit in future work programmes across the Specific Programmes of FP7;
- jointly supporting the definition of S&T cooperation policies;
- supporting and stimulating the participation of LAPC in FP7.

2. Dialogue activities

EULARINET will establish a network between European and Latin American stakeholders to identify priorities of mutual interest and benefit for both regions.

Bilateral sub-regional dialogues will be organised annually in the three sub-regions of: Mexico and Central America; Andean countries and Chile; and the Mercosur (Southern Common Market) countries, involving stakeholders from policymaking, science and industry communities. A co-leadership between LAPC and EU partners will ensure balanced responsibility and participation in the activities.

High-level bi-regional meetings open to all EU and LA countries are planned during the duration of the project. The consortium will actively address other Member States, Associated Countries and LAPC that are currently not members of the EULARINET consortium, to participate and contribute, thus increasing the impact of the dialogue. These high-level meetings will highlight and reflect the results from the sub-regional meetings on the identification of common topics for FP7 thematic areas.

FUI ARINFT will.

- structure the communication channels by offering ad-hoc fora for bi-regional dialogue on S&T
 policy between LA and the EU, for the exchange of views and information on national and bilateral S&T policies relevant for bi-regional S&T cooperation, and for a comprehensive and structured
 exchange with LAPC regarding the research activities of the European Commission (EC);
- promote regional integration;
- address global issues of common interest, and develop scenarios and concrete recommendations for actions, including in support to the EU-Latin American and Caribbean Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation and on S&T activities addressing topics related to the EU Framework Programme.

Links with broader EU S&T policies will contribute to social and economic development and stimulate an environment for transnational scientific cooperation of individual scientists and institutions.

3. Implementation and dissemination activities

A proactive dissemination strategy will be implemented in order to raise awareness for the potential of S&T in LA, inform interested stakeholders from science, industries and policymaking about opportunities for enhanced S&T cooperation within FP7, and to foster active networking. This networking will address the science communities and innovative industries in Member States, Associated Countries and LAPC. Here, synergies with existing programmes from the EC will be widely explored.

Specific and horizontal awareness-raising and information dissemination events will be carried out through a series of national, regional and bi-regional conferences, as well as seminars and workshops on S&T cooperation opportunities. These will address various groups of stakeholders from the scientific, industrial and policy-making communities.

Selected targeted political events, addressed to political stakeholders on national, regional and EU level, will be targeted so as to raise awareness on the opportunities and challenges of a closer bi-regional cooperation between the EU and LA.

The following outputs are foreseen:

- a website with public and private areas with advanced functionalities to support collaborative dialogues among the partners and that will link to other relevant websites;
- a new EU-LA internet portal, as a future single point of access, building on existing websites and
 electronic information provided by previous and ongoing projects on EU-LA S&T cooperation;
- publications to disseminate the major EULARINET activities, findings and events to external stakeholders

4. Monitoring and review activities

Monitoring will be focused on past and ongoing cooperation activities, and will provide a complete view of the modalities and intensity of the bi-regional cooperation.

Main activities will involve:

- developing questionnaires, interview schemes, S&T indicators and benchmarking criteria;
- working jointly and taking into account the results and working methods of ongoing initiatives (CYTED, EULANEST, LAC-ACCESS);
- mapping the activities through an online database for the results and statistical data of all tasks as a 'work-in-progress' S&T observatory;
- developing specific criteria for assessing EU-LAC FP6/FP7 cooperation activities.

