LAC-ACCESS

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Connecting high-quality research between the European Union and Latin American and Caribbean Countries

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THEMATIC REPORT on Public Health Research

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Content

1 Introduction

The Thematic Report on Public Health Research is produced in the context of the project LAC-ACCESS, which is funded by the 6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6). The project's central objective is to bridge high-quality research organisations in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) with those of the European Union (EU), focusing in particular on the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). The project's duration is 28 months (January 2007 – April 2009).

The purpose of this report is to facilitate and provide useful information on existing initiatives, support programmes and current research activities on EU level with a special focus on public health research. The major programmes, supporting initiatives and instruments (e.g. ERA-NET, Joint Technology Initiatives) are listed and key research players and organizations presented in a structured way. The report concludes with an overview and description of selected projects implemented in the EU but also informs about projects linking EU and LAC's countries in this scientific field.

This report is based upon the desk research and provides information gathered from diverse European sources. The report was compiled in summer 2008.
Similar reports are produced also in the fields of energy/biofuels, technology-enhanced learning (TEL) and agricultural research.

1.1 Public health research

Public health research draws on disciplines including epidemiology, sociology, psychology and economics, and interdisciplinary fields of environmental health, health promotion, disease prevention, health care management, health services research and health systems research.

Research in this area is undertaken at the population or health service level (compared with biomedical and clinical health research at laboratory and patient levels) and uses a range of observational methods, including surveys, registers, data-sets, case-studies and statistical modeling.

1.2 Public health research portals

Apart from information provided on the Community Research and Development Information Service webpage (CORDIS – providing information about Framework Programmes' calls and their work programmes)[1], ERAWATCH[2] (offering information about national and regional research policies, actors, organisations and programmes)

[1] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/home_en.html

[2] http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/

and the Health-EU Portal (the official public health portal of the European Union)[3], there are several web portal providing useful information related to public health research. Also web platform @HEALTH[4], created in the frame of FP6 project, provides comprehensive information on the State of the Art of eHealth, including applications and enabling technologies, best practices, pilot projects, and on going RTD projects. More information about this project can be found in the chapter 4.3 International public health projects linking European Union and Latin American countries.

1.2.1 eHealthNews.EU Portal[5]

eHealthNews.EU Portal represents basic platform of the European eHealth news. The main service provided by eHealthNews.EU portal is the dissemination of the European eHealth related news articles. The news service is covering six major areas: industry news; research news; conferences news; open calls; publications and white papers focusing on health.

1.2.2 epractice.eu[6]

ePractice.eu is an online community where professionals related to eGovernment, eInclusion and eHealth can share experiences, contacts and resources with peers around the world. The portal was created and is supported by the EC.

The portal maintains a comprehensive online calendar with the major eGovernment, eInclusion and eHealth related events scheduled across Europe. A directory of documents on eGovernment, eInclusion and eHealth is provided as well as a combination of online with offline activities, e.g. workshops reflecting current topics and offering a platform on which participants are able to discuss the latest issues and cases face-to-face.

1.2.3 Research on infectious diseases[7]

The webportal of EC 'Research on infectious diseases' is structured in four areas:

- HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis;
- Neglected Infectious Diseases;
- Antimicrobial drug resistance; and
- Emerging and Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Detailed information about linkages of each area to FP7 is provided, including listing FP5, FP6 projects and diseases addressed.

[3] http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

[4] http://ahealth.eupm.net/

[5] http://www.ehealthnews.eu/

[6] http://www.epractice.eu/

[7] http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/index_en.html

2 Relevant EU support mechanisms and initiatives

2.1 FP7 Programme[8]

The Framework Programme (FP) is the European Union's main instrument for funding research and development (R&D).

The 7th Framework Programme (FP7) bundles all research-related EU initiatives together under a common roof playing a crucial role in reaching the goals of growth, competitiveness and employment; along with a new Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), Education and Training programmes, and Structural and Cohesion Funds for regional convergence and competitiveness. It is also a key pillar for the European Research Area (ERA).
The FP7 is operating for seven years from January 1, 2007 with a budget of approximately EUR 50.5 billion.

The broad objectives of FP7 have been grouped into four categories – programmes:

- 'Cooperation';
- 'Ideas';
- 'People'; and
- 'Capacities'.

All specific programmes work together to promote and encourage the creation of European poles of (scientific) excellence. The non-nuclear research activities of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) are grouped under a specific programme with individual budget allocation.

The programme **'Cooperation'**[9] covers collaborative research, carried out in trans-national cooperation (consortia) and Joint Technology Initiatives (based on Technology Platforms) and covers following themes: **Health**; Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology; Information and Communication Technologies (ICT); Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies; Energy; Environment (including Climate Change); Transport (including Aeronautics); Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities; Space and Security.

The programme **'Ideas'** covers basic, frontier research, carried out across all fields by individual teams.[10] For its implementation, a European Research Council (ERC), consisting of an independent Scientific Council and a dedicated implementation structure, has been established by EC and more detailed can be found in the chapter 3 Key EU research initiatives, players and agencies.

[8] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

[9] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/home_en.html

[10] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ideas/home_en.html

The programme **'People'** focuses on strengthening the human potential in research (activities supporting training and career development of researches) and detailed description of Marie Curie Actions is provided on the FP7 programme webpage.[11]

The programme **'Capacities'** supports research infrastructures, research for the benefit of SMEs and the research potential of European regions. Description of the areas is also available on the FP7 webpage.[12]

The European Commission (EC) has made international cooperation a major aspect of FP7. Open to participation from nearly every country in the world, FP7 is the largest international R&D programme worldwide. Participation of the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries is specifically encouraged and there are different categories of countries which may have varying eligibility for different specific and work programmes. The list of International Co-operation Partner Countries (ICPC) is always in the annex of each work programme for individual themes.

Comprehensive resource containing documents, publications and newsletters on Public Health Research is available in the CORDIS Library - Health. [13]

2.1.1 FP7 Cooperation, Theme 1: Health[14]

The objective of health research under FP7 is to improve the health of European citizens and boost the competitiveness of health-related industries and businesses, as well as address global health issues.

The overall budget earmarked for funding of the theme 1 for the period 2007 - 2013 is EUR 6.1 billion, which represents 19% allocated financial resources from 'Cooperation' programme (app. EUR 32 billion).

European health research in FP 7 is divided in three pillars:

- Pillar 1: Biotechnology, generic tools and technologies for health
    - High-throughput research enhancing data generation, standardisation, acquisition & analysis;
    - Detection, diagnosis and monitoring with emphasis on non-invasive or minimally invasive approaches;
    - Predicting suitability, safety and efficacy of therapies develop and validate parameters, tools, methods and standards and alternatives to animal testing (mainly through IMI); and
    - Innovative therapeutic approaches and interventions gene and cell therapy, regenerative medicine, immunotherapy and vaccines.

[11] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home_en.html

[12] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/home_en.html

[13] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/library_en.html

[14] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/home_en.html

- Pillar 2: Translating research for human health
  - Integrating biological data and processes: large-scale data gathering, systems biology;
  - Research on the brain and related diseases, human development and ageing;
  - Translational research in major infectious diseases to confront major threats to public health antimicrobial drug resistance, HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB, emerging epidemics, neglected infectious diseases; and
  - Translational research in other major diseases: cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity, rare diseases, and other chronic diseases.

- Pillar 3: Optimising the delivery of health care to citizens
  - Translating clinical research into clinical practice patient safety, better use of medicines, pharmacovigilance, etc.
  - Quality, efficiency and solidarity of health care systems organisational and financial aspects, health systems, etc.
  - Enhanced health promotion and disease prevention providing evidence of best public health measures – life styles, interventions, special focus on mental health, etc.

- Cross-cutting actions:
  - Coordination and Support Actions across the theme; and
  - Responding to EU policy needs.

Issues such child health, health of the ageing population and gender-related health are strategically important for all topics of the theme 1. As translation of basic discoveries into clinical applications is one of the main objectives of this theme, clinical research is expected to be a major tool used in the funded projects. Research involving 'high-tech' SMEs and partners covering non- European region is another strategic area of the health theme.

Overlaps of this theme can be seen with other themes of FP7, such as theme 2 – Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology; theme 3 - Information & Communication Technologies; theme 4 - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies; and theme 6 - Enviroment. Therefore it is strongly recommended to pay enough attention to other themes too.

In 2007, there were two calls published under the theme 1. The first call for proposals within this theme (**FP7-HEALTH-2007-A**) was announced on December 22, 2006 with the deadline on April 19, 2007 and second call (**FP7-HEALTH-2007-B**) was published on June 19, 2007 (deadline September 18, 2007).

The third call for proposals, drawn on the budget for 2009, was published on September 3, 2008. This third 'Health' call was published in two parallel calls:

- **FP7-HEALTH-2009-single-stage;** and
- **FP7-HEALTH-2009-two-stage.**

Complete information package related to the third call can be found on the CORDIS webpage.[15] The calls (FP7-HEALTH-2009-single-stage and FP7-HEALTH-2009-two-stage) have a deadline for submission on December 3, 2008.

According to information available, the fourth call in the theme 1 - Health is expected to be published in July 2009 with tentative deadline for submission in October/November 2009. Expected budget available for this call is EUR 600 million.

More detailed information related to health research, both Health Work Programmes for 2008 and 2009 (published by EC on August 28, 2008) with listing all relevant, actual calls for proposals for Health under FP7 including Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICA) and can be downloaded at the CORDIS webpage.[16]

2.1.2 International cooperation in FP7 – possibilities for LAC in FP7 Cooperation, Theme 1[17]

International cooperation is an important aspect of FP7 and is an integral part of theme 1 – Health. Project consortia in all areas are encouraged to include organisations from third countries, especially from the International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC) and from countries with Scientific and Technological cooperation agreements (in case of LAC: Chile, Brasil, Mexico and Argentina) with the EU according to the participation rules.

International Cooperation in the theme1 follows four main strategies:

- **General opening of all topics to any country in the world**
  Third country participation is particularly emphasized in the areas addressing global health problems: Anti-microbial drug resistance, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and emerging epidemics, as well as in certain individual topics in the other areas of the theme.
- **Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICA)**
  This strategie aims to generate, share and use knowledge through research partnerships with third countries in the areas identified through bi-regional dialogues with third countries/regions and international fora, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit. Research areas may include: health policy research, health systems and health care service research, neglected infectious diseases and emerging unforeseen policy needs in those regions, as well as other topics of strategic importance. It is important to notice that Collaborative projects dedicated to SICA must involve at least two participants from two different Member States or Associated countries and at least two partners from two different ICPCs.
- **Coordinated calls with certain countries**
  This type of calls represents a new feature in FP7, when topics are defined in close collaboration with research and funding agencies of the target country.

[15] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7ActivityCallsPage&id_activity=1

[16] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/abouthealth_en.html

[17] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/international-cooperation_en.html

The intention is to support those projects which have an approximately equal number of partners from the EU (including AC) and from the participating third country, which will finance the expenses of its own partners. This type of cooperation is ideal for large nations containing many regions and which have the capacity to collaborate on an equal basis with several EU / AC partners. Nations like Russia, China, Brazil and India will be invited to join upcoming calls).

- **Programme level cooperation with industrialised countries.**

A number of third countries have established Contact Points (CPs) for cooperation with EU in FP7 related to health research[18]. CPs carry out a broad range of activities, for example diffusing information, training, networking and facilitating cooperation among the respective scientific communities.
In following countries of LA region national contact points providing information about theme 1 – Health are provided by:

- **Mexico:** Institutos Nacionales de Salaud, S. S.;
- **Uruguay:** Ministerio de Salud Pública – MSP;
- **Argentina:** Investigaciones en Ingeniería Genética y Biología Molecular (INGEBI-CONICET); and
- **Chile:** National Fund for Research and Development in Health (FONIS).

As already stated, the participation of organizations from Latin America is encouraged and there are topics, where their participation is a mandatory. In the 2007 calls, there were topics, where participation of countries from Latin America was explicitly requested. For example in **HEALTH-2007-2.4.1-14: Studying cancer aetiology in Latin America,** small or medium-scale focused research projects were supported and international consortia should conduct and coordinate epidemiological studies to identify risk factors for cancers with high incidence in Latin America (e.g. gastrointestinal cancers, head and neck cancer, etc.), including genetic susceptibility, infections, diet, lifestyle, or environmental exposures. Another example to be mentioned is **HEALTH-2007-3.5-2: Universal and equitable access to health care and MPC, ACP, Asia health financing,** where Latin America was one of the target regions with research supported in application and extension of principles of accessibility, affordability, equity and quality coverage in health sectors with poor resource allocations.
Unfortunately, no further relevant information was available when finalizing the thematic report.

In the Work Programme 2009 - Health, published by EC on August 28, 2008, there are eight areas where participation from third countries is encouraged in the frame of SICAs, e.g.: **Area 4.3.1. Neglected infectious diseases**; and **Area 4.3.2. International Public Health and Health Systems** with fixed deadline on December 3, 2008.
For detailed information about topics called, please consult the Work Programme 2009 - Health or contact the International Cooperation Contact Officer in the Health Research Directorate - Indridi Benediktsson (indridi.benediktsson@ec.europa.eu).

[18] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/thirdcountries_en.html

2.2 European Technology Platforms (ETPs)

The European Technology Platforms (ETPs) provide a means to foster effective public-private partnerships between the research community, industry and policy makers in order to deliver the impetus to mobilise the research and innovation effort towards achieving a common goal. The role of Technology Platforms in stimulating more effective RTD, particularly in the private sector, can contribute directly to achieving the Lisbon objectives, developing the European Research Area (ERA) and increasing investment in R&D towards the 3% of GDP target.

A Technology Platform (TP) is a mechanism to bring together all interested stakeholders to develop a long-term vision to address a specific challenge, create a coherent, dynamic strategy to achieve its vision and steer the implementation of an action plan to deliver agreed programmes of activities and optimise the benefits for all parties. The elaboration and follow-up of a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) form a crucial part of the implementation strategy, to optimise the contribution of RTD to the process. In achieving its wider goals, a TP should, in a medium to long term perspective, generate sustainable competitiveness and world leadership for the EU in the field concerned, by stimulating increased and more effective investment in R&D, accelerating innovation and eliminating the barriers to the deployment and growth of new technologies.

Technology Platforms follow three stages of development:

- Agreement on a common vision for technological development in the sector;
- Definition of a Strategic Research Agenda (medium and long-term);
- Mobilization of financial and human resources to implement the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA).

Nowadays, there are 30 European Technology Platforms (ETPs) created so far and detailed information on individual platforms is available at CORDIS webpage.[19]

There are several technology platforms focusing on health research; e.g.

- **Technology Platform on NanoMedicine,**[20] dealing with NanoMedicine, which is defined as the application of nanotechnology to achieve breakthroughs in healthcare.
- **Technology Platform for Innovative Medicines,**[21] which has been transformed to a Joint Technology Initiative **Innovative Medicines Initiative,**[22] and more information about this initiative is provided in the chapter 2.3 Joint Technology Initiatives.

[19] http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/individual_en.html

[20] http://cordis.europa.eu/nanotechnology/nanomedicine.htm

[21] http://cordis.europa.eu/lifescihealth/innomed_intro.htm

[22] http://imi.europa.eu

- **Novogen Isoflavonoid Technology Platform,**[23] dealing with the challenge of finding effective and safe therapies for the major degenerative diseases and disorders facing modern communities.
- **Technology Platform Food for Life,**[24] addressing welfare and well-being through research and innovation in the European agro-food industry.

2.3 Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs)[25]

Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) are one of the major elements of the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). They provide a way of creating new partnerships between publicly and privately-funded organisations involved in research, focusing on areas where research and technological development can contribute to European competitiveness and quality of life. The approach proposed by the JTIs signals a real change in how Europe promotes industry-driven research, designed to establish European leadership in certain technologies that are strategic to Europe's future.

In its structure, JTIs are independent legal entities managing research projects in an integrated way, with industry joining forces with other stakeholders. JTIs organise calls for proposals, oversee selection procedures and put in place contractual arrangements for projects set up to implement the JTI research agenda. JTIs will thus allow funds from different sources to be jointly managed and will be responsible for communication and dissemination activities.
Each JTI includes a Governing Board, an Executive Director as well as other bodies, covering advisory bodies, depending on its specific operational and governance needs.

There have been six initiatives identified in the 'Cooperation' Specific Programme, and one of them is directly linked with health research/ biopharmaceutical sector. The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) was launched by the Council Regulation (EC) which came into force on February 7, 2008.[26]

Name:	**Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)**
Contact:	Via webpage
Email:	imi.infodesk@ec.europa.eu
Website:	http://imi.europa.eu/; http://www.imi-europe.org/

[23] http://www.novogen.com/know/know0201.cfm?mainsection=02&subsection=02

[24] http://etp.ciaa.be/asp/home/welcome.asp

[25] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/jtis/about-jti_en.html

[26] Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2008 of 20 December 2007 setting up the Joint Undertaking for the implementation of the Joint Technology Initiative on Innovative Medicines

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is a unique Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the European Community and pharmaceutical industry represented by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA).

The aim of IMI is to support the faster discovery and development of better medicines for patients and to enhance Europe's competitiveness by ensuring that its biopharmaceutical sector remains a dynamic high-technology sector. IMI brings together experts from the laboratory and the clinic working on new approaches to better predict as early as possible whether a drug works in a patient and whether it is safe. Earlier access to new treatments is the ultimate goal of this joint initiative.

IMI has a total budget of EUR 2 billion until 2013. In 2008 grants of EUR 123 million will be handed to the most promising research projects in the areas of brain disorders, metabolic and inflammatory diseases. It is planned that future calls will also cover cancer and infectious diseases. These areas have been chosen because they are, primarily, important areas of unmet medical need, affecting the lives of millions of European citizens.

Any company, university, research organization, or other entity, carrying out activities relevant to the objectives of the IMI JU (Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking) in European Member States or countries associated with the FP7 can participate in an IMI JU collaborative project. Any other entities who do not meet the conditions laid down above may participate if so agreed by the IMI JU. The maximum IMI JU financial contribution covers: 75% of eligible costs for research activities and 100% of eligible costs for other activities including management and training activities.

The 1st IMI Call, announced on April 30, 2008, is already closed as the deadline for submissions was on July 15, 2008. The call consisted of 18 topics based on IMI's Scientific Priorities for 2008, which were derived from the IMI Research Agenda. According to the internet source[27], all applications (close to 150 Expressions of Interest received) will be evaluated by Peer Review Committees by the end of September 2008. Applicants who are considered as outstanding will then be invited to join EFPIA industry members to form a 'Project Consortium' that will develop the full project proposal. These proposals will be sent to the IMI JU for the second stage peer-evaluation towards the end of November 2008. Contract negotiations followed by a kick off of the research activities are foreseen for early 2009.

To learn more about the IMI's Scientific Priorities for 2008 and this call, please consult the webpage.[28]

[27] http://www.imi-europe.org/Pages/topic.aspx?Item=13&ListId=DA41E506-DF1A-46A3-A541-548CE8F0D9B5

[28] http://imi.europa.eu/calls-01_en.html

2.4 ERA-NETs generally focusing on public health research

European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) is a scheme encouraged by the EC under FP6 and FP7 with the objective to support the co-operation and co-ordination of research activities carried out at national or regional level. ERA-NETs are financial supported by the FPs through SSA (Specific Support Action) during the preparatory phase and CA (Coordination Action) during the implementation.

Only 'Programme owners' (typically national ministries/regional authorities) and 'Programme managers' (such as research councils or funding agencies) are considered as eligible partners in an ERA-NET action. It should be stressed that research organisations or universities which are not programme owners or managers are not eligible partners for ERA-NET actions.

The mission of all existing ERA-NETs is to:

- propose actions to better co-ordinate research activities;
- launch call for proposals to support research activities in some EU Countries and regions and for a specific sector.

In FP7, new ERA-NET actions will be supported and existing ERA-NET actions may re-apply to receive EC support to extend and/or reinforce their integration e.g. by broadening their partnership or increasing the type of collaborations. EC plans to support the organisation of joint calls between national research programmes by 'topping-up' joint trans-national funding with EC funding in a new module, so called 'ERA-NET Plus'. More information about recent development in FP7 related to ERA-NETs is available on the internet.[29]

There are several ERA-NETs tackling public health research, supported in FP6 (a selection):

- **eHealth ERA** - Towards the Establishment of a European eHealth Research Area;
- **ERA-NET NEURON**, linking 15 European national research funding programmes and funding activities in the field of disease-related neurosciences;
- **E-Rare** - ERA-Net for research programmes on rare diseases;
- **ERA-NET PathoGenoMics** - Trans-European cooperation and coordination of genome sequencing and functional genomics of human-pathogenic microorganisms; and
- **SAFEFOODERA** - Europe excellence in food safety research programming.

Detailed information about individual European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) supported within FP6 and their pilot calls are available on the internet.[30]

[29] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/coordination/eranet_en.html

[30] http://www.europartnersearch.net/eu-agri-mapping/index.php?page=eranet

2.5 Second Programme of Community Action in the field of Public Health (2003 – 2008)[31]

The Health Programme is the key initiative to implement health objectives at European level. The Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health came into force in January 2008, runs for six years and follows the first Programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008), which financed over 300 projects and other actions.

The Health Programme 2008-2013 is intended to complement, support and add value to the policies of the Member States and contribute to increased solidarity and prosperity in the EU by protecting and promoting human health and safety and by improving public health.

The programme offers EUR 3.2 billion and is implemented by means of annual work plans which set out priority areas and the funding criteria. The implementation tasks of the Health Programme are managed by the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC)[32], formerly named Public Health Executive Agency.

The programme objectives are as follows:

- Improving citizens' health security
  - Developing EU and Member States' capacity to respond to health threats, for example with health emergency planning and preparedness measures;
  - Actions related to patient safety, injuries and accidents, risk assessment and community legislation on blood, tissues and cells.
- Promoting health, including the reduction of health inequalities
  - Action on health determinants - such as nutrition, alcohol, tobacco and drug consumption, as well as social and environmental determinants;
  - Measures on the prevention of major diseases and reducing health inequalities across the EU;
  - Increasing healthy life years and promoting healthy ageing.
- Generating and disseminating health information and knowledge
  - Action on health indicators and ways of disseminating information to citizens;
  - Focus on Community added-value action to exchange knowledge in areas such as gender issues, children's health or rare diseases.

This programme is not open to organization from LAC as only organisations legally registered in an EU Member State, or coming from an EFTA country within the context of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) can participate as a main partner, associated partner, collaborating partner or subcontractor.

[31] http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/health_programme_en.htm

[32] http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/about/about.html

2.6 European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST)[33]

Founded in 1971, COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research, allowing the co-ordination of nationally funded research on a European level. COST Actions cover basic and pre-competitive research as well as activities of public utility. COST is managed by the European Science Foundation (ESF) and receives funding from the EC under the framework programmes (FP).

COST has a geographical scope beyond the EU and welcomes the participation of interested institutions from non-COST member states without any geographical restriction.

As a precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research, COST plays an important role in the realisation of the European Research Area (ERA). It anticipates and complements the activities of the EU Framework Programmes, constituting a 'bridge' towards the scientific communities of emerging countries. It also increases the mobility of researchers across Europe and fosters the establishment of scientific excellence in nine key domains:

- **Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences**;
- Food and Agriculture;
- Forests, their Products and Services;
- Materials, Physical and Nanosciences;
- Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies;
- Earth System Science and Environmental Management;
- Information and Communication Technologies;
- Transport and Urban Development; and
- Individuals, Societies, Cultures and **Health**.

COST Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences is a field introduced in COST in 1982. One of the main purposes of the domain 'Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences'[34] is to identify, assess and prepare new COST Actions/European Networks covering the medical and health domains in Europe, considering the following requirements:

- Networks should address cutting-edge issues in medicine and health and include high quality scientific research;
- Careful consideration of interests, resources and budgetary consequences in the networks member countries are taken into account and assessment of the COST added-value is addressed;
- Encourage inter-disciplinary approach of medical and/or health issues using maximum flexibility in terms of scientific approach and inclusion of countries in the networks.

[33] http://www.cost.esf.org/

[34] http://www.cost.esf.org/bmbs

The domain 'Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health'[35] support the development of knowledge and insights for citizens, democratic debate and decision-making in the public, private and voluntary spheres.

COST finances networking of nationally funded activities in supporting meetings, conferences, short term scientific exchanges and outreach activities. COST supports the networking of specific research themes but does not fund research projects themselves. Currently more than 200 actions are supported and it is expected that every year approximately 50 new actions will be approved. On average financial support of some EUR 100.000 p.a. as grant for 4 years can be expected.

More information related to open COST Calls for proposals to support Scientific and Technical Collaboration in Europe is available on the webpage.[36]

2.7 EUREKA[37]

EUREKA is a pan-European network for market-oriented, industrial R&D. Created as an intergovernmental initiative in 1985, EUREKA aims to enhance European competitiveness through its support to businesses, research centres and universities who carry out pan-European projects to develop innovative products, processes and services.

EUREKA promotes cross-border, market-oriented, collaborative R&D and simplifies access to national funding for industry and research institutes from 39 member countries (none of them is from LAC) in a bottom-up approach to developing and exploiting innovative technology.

Projects supported within EUREKA are covering following areas: Electronics & ICT; Industrial Manufacturing, Material & Transport; Other Industrial Technologies; Energy Technology; Chemistry, Physical & Exact Sciences; **Biological Sciences**[38]; Agriculture&Marine Resources; Agrofood Technology; Measurements & Standards; and Technology for protecting humankind & the environment. In the 'Biological Sciences' projects in following areas are supported: medical technology; biology/ biotechnology; genome research and micro- and nanotechnology related to biological sciences. Detailed information about individual projects is available on the EUREKA webpage.

More opportunities for SMEs in health research is offering **EUROSTARS Programme**[39], which is the first European funding and support programme specifically dedicated to SMEs and managed by EUREKA. Its purpose is to provide

[35] http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=934

[36] http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=opencall

[37] http://www.eureka.be/

[38] http://www.eureka.be/thematic/showThematic.do?area=t06

[39] http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/

funding for market-oriented research and development specifically with the active participation of R&D-performing small and medium-sized enterprises. A Eurostars project must be led by a research-performing SME from a Eurostars member country and is collaborative, meaning it must involve at least two participants (legal entities) from two different Eurostars participating countries. In addition, the main participant must be a research-performing SME from one of these countries[40]. Unfortunately participation from LAC is not encouraged at the moment.

3 Key EU research institutes and organisations

Name:	**Joint Research Centre (JRC)**
Contact:	SDME 10/78, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Email:	jrc-info@ec.europa.eu
Website:	http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm

The mission of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of EU policies. As a service of the EC, the JRC functions as a reference centre of science and technology for the European Union. Close to the policy-making process, it serves the common interest of the Member States, while being independent of special interests, whether private or national.

The JRC provides scientific-technical support mainly to the following policy areas of the European Commission: Chemicals legislation; European Research Area (ERA); Internal market (financial services, system of common standards); Energy policies (Clean and sustainable energy production and conversion; safe and secure energy supply: energy efficiency, renewable energies, nuclear energy); Sustainable transport; Information Society (competitiveness, innovation and inclusion); Common Agricultural Policy (rural development, sustainable agriculture); Maritime Strategy (fisheries, marine policy, security); Environmental policies (support to various legislative acts such as on fuels, soils, water, forests, air quality); Infrastructure for spatial information in Europe; Climate change (Kyoto protocol and post-Kyoto policy options); **Health and consumer protection** (food and feed safety and quality, cosmetics directives); Internal and global security; and Nuclear policies.

More information dedicated to Joint Research Centre (JRC) and its institutes all across Europe dealing with heath research (e.g. Institute for Health and Consumer Protection[41]) can be downloaded on the webpage.

[40] Participating countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

[41] http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm?id=1540

Name:	**European Research Council (ERC)**
Contact:	Secretariat to the ERC Scientific Council and the ERC Board, Place Madou 1, MADO 06/64, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Email:	rtd-erc@ec.europa.eu
Website:	http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm

The European Research Council (ERC) is the first European funding body set up to support investigator-driven frontier research. The ERC complements other funding activities in Europe such as those of the national research funding agencies, and is a flagship component of the 'Ideas Programme' of the European Union's 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7). More information about 'Ideas' provided in the chapter 2.1 FP7 Programme.

Its main aim is to stimulate scientific excellence by supporting and encouraging the very best, truly creative scientists, scholars and engineers to be adventurous and take risks in their research. The scientists are encouraged to go beyond established frontiers of knowledge and the boundaries of disciplines.

Being 'investigator-driven', or 'bottom-up', in nature, the ERC approach allows researchers to identify new opportunities and directions in any field of research (i.e. all fields related to health research), rather than being led by priorities set by politicians. This approach ensures that funds are channeled into new and promising areas of research with a greater degree of flexibility.

Participation from third countries (International Cooperation Partner Country – ICPC) in the ERC funding schemes is encouraged as a Principal Investigator (PI). The researcher may be of any age and nationality (with PhD or equivalent degree) and may reside in any country in the world at the time of the application. PI, who is coming from a third country, must establish a research team and activity at a host institution in a member state or associated country.

Depending on the specific project and field, the level of ERC grants may be up to around EUR 3.5 million for a period of 5 years. Normally, however, grants will be limited to a maximum of around EUR 2.5 million unless the application involves specific features requiring a higher level of support.

All practical information on ERC Grant Schemes is available in structured way on the webpage.[42]

There are several EU initiatives announced just recently which represent major milestones in the way the EU conducts target-oriented research by partnering with the industry. One of them is the European Institute of Innovation and Technology

[42] http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=23

(EIT), which will increase the overall resources available for R&D and will allow for better coordination with national and regional programmes available for R&D.

Name:	**European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**
Contact:	Budapest, Hungary
Email:	via internet (using EIT Contact form)
Website:	http://ec.europa.eu/eit/

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is a major EU initiative which aims to foster excellence in European innovation and to provide new solutions for major challenges, such as climate change, renewable energies or the next generation of information and communication technologies. The EIT is the first European initiative to integrate fully the three sides of the 'Knowledge Triangle' (Higher Education, Research, Business-Innovation) and seeks to stand out as a world-class innovation-orientated reference model, inspiring and driving change in existing education and research institutions.

By boosting the EU's capacity to transform education and research results into tangible commercial innovation opportunities, the EIT will further bridge the innovation gap between the EU and its major international competitors. The EIT will favour sustainable economic growth and job creation throughout the Union by generating new products, services and markets responding both to public demand and to the needs of the knowledge economy.
Based on partnerships known as 'Knowledge and Innovation Communities' (KICs) – highly integrated public-private networks of universities, research organisations and businesses – the EIT's activities will be coordinated by a Governing Board ensuring its strategic management. Direct involvement of business stakeholders, including SMEs, in all strategic, operational and financial aspects of the Institute is the corner stone of the initiative.

The EU Member States decided unanimously on June 18, 2008, that the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) will have its headquarters in Budapest, Hungary. The inaugural meeting of the newly appointed Governing Board of EIT was held in the Institute's host city of Budapest on September 15, 2008.

According to the EIT's webpage[43], the Governing Board will be responsible for steering the EIT's strategic orientation and for the selection, monitoring and evaluation of KICs. At the inaugural meeting in September 2008, the Governing Board members, consisting of 18 experts worldwide, unanimously elected Prof. Dr. Martin Schuurmans, a Professor of Physics and former Executive Vice President of Philips Research, as Chairman of the EIT's.

[43] http://ec.europa.eu/eit/news_en.htm#eit006news

3.1 *International organisations/networks focusing on public health research*

(in alphabetical order)

Name:	**European Medicines Agency (EMEA)**
Contact:	7 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London E14 4HB, United Kingdom
Email:	info@emea.europa.eu
Website:	http://www.emea.europa.eu/

The European Medicines Agency (EMEA) is a decentralised body of the European Union with headquarters in London, United Kingdom. The agency is responsible for coordinating the existing scientific resources put at its disposal by Member States for the evaluation, supervision and pharmacovigilance of medicinal products.

The Agency provides the Member States and the institutions of the EU the best-possible scientific advice on any question relating to the evaluation of the quality, safety and efficacy of medicinal products for human or veterinary use referred to it in accordance with the provisions of EU legislation relating to medicinal products.

The Agency brings together the scientific resources of some 40 national competent authorities in 30 EU and EEA/EFTA countries in a network of over 4,000 European experts. It contributes to the European Union's international activities through its work with the European Pharmacopoeia, the World Health Organization, and the ICH and VICH trilateral (EU, Japan and US) conferences on harmonisation, among other international organisations and initiatives.

Name:	**European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies**
Contact:	Rue de l'Autonomie, 4, B - 1070 Brussels, Belgium
Email:	info@obs.euro.who.int
Website:	http://www.euro.who.int/observatory

The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies supports and promotes evidence-based health policy-making through comprehensive and rigorous analysis of the dynamics of health care systems in Europe.

The Observatory is a partnership between the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, the Governments of Belgium, Finland, Greece, Norway, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden, the Veneto Region of Italy, the European Investment Bank, the Open Society Institute, the World Bank, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

The Observatory is composed of a Steering Committee, core management team, research policy group and staff. The Observatory's Secretariat is based in Brussels and has offices in London and Berlin.

The organization publishes regularly EuroObserver - Health Policy Bulletin of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

Name:	**European Patients' Forum (EPF)**
Contact:	Rue Belliard 65, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
Email:	via website
Website:	http://www.eu-patient.eu/

The European Patients' Forum (EPF) is the umbrella organisation of pan-European patient organisations active in the field of European public health and health advocacy. The Forum was founded in 2003 with aim to become the collective patients' voice at EU level, manifesting the solidarity, power and unity of the EU patients' movement.

EPF currently represent 37 patients' organisations, representing chronic disease specific patient organisations, operating at EU level and national coalitions of patients organisations.

EPF facilitates exchange of good practice and challenging of bad practices on patients' rights, equitable access to treatment and care, and health-related quality of life between patient organisations at European level and at Member state level.

Name:	**European Public Health Association (EUPHA)**
Contact:	Otterstraat 118-124, Postbox 1568, 3500 BN Utrecht, Netherlands
Email:	office@eupha.org
Website:	http://www.eupha.org/

The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) is an umbrella organisation for public health associations in Europe, which was founded in 1992. EUPHA is an international, multidisciplinary, scientific organisation, bringing together approximately 12 000 public health experts for professional exchange and collaboration throughout Europe.

EUPHA acts as a proactive platform for public health professionals in research and practice and creates linkages between these professionals and policymakers. Promoting and strengthening public health research, policy and practice in Europe

and encouraging effective European joint research and other activities in the field of public health research and health services research in Europe are important objectives of EUPHA.

EUPHA publishes a scientific journal six times a year entitled European Journal of Public Health. The association convenes a scientific conference every year, bringing together public health experts throughout Europe and beyond and encourages the creation of sections for specific public health themes, which are international and open to all regular EUPHA members.

Name:	**Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC)**
Contact:	DRB A3/042, L-2920 Luxembourg
Email:	phea@ec.europa.eu
Website:	http://ec.europa.eu/phea/

The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC), formerly named the Public Health Executive Agency (PHEA), is an agency of the EC responsible for the implementation of new EU Health Programme, Consumer Programme and Better Training for Safer Food Initiative. EAHC organizes yearly dozens of technical meetings and other events bringing together public health professional from across the EU.

On June 20, 2008, the European Commission took a decision to prolong the mandate of the Agency until 2015.

The Agency is based in Luxembourg and it has about 40 staff members.

Name:	**Global Forum for Health Research**
Contact:	1-5 route des Morillons, PO Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Email:	info@globalforumhealth.org
Website:	http://www.globalforumhealth.org/

The Global Forum for Health Research was established as an independent international foundation in Switzerland in 1998.

The organization provides evidence, tools and discussion forums for decision-makers in research funding and policy to improve the health of poor populations through research for health.

Name:	**World Health Organization (WHO)**
Contact:	Avenue Appia 20, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
Email:	info@who.int
Website:	http://www.who.int/en/

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that acts as a coordinating authority on international public health. The organization was established in April 1948.

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

WHO fulfils its objectives through its core functions:

- providing leadership on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed;
- shaping the research agenda and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge;
- setting norms and standards and promoting and monitoring their implementation;
- articulating ethical and evidence-based policy options;
- providing technical support, catalysing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity; and
- monitoring the health situation and assessing health trends.

These core functions are set out in the 11th General Programme of Work, which provides the framework for organization-wide programme of work, budget, resources and results. Entitled ‚Engaging for health', it covers the 10-year period from 2006 to 2015.

4 Projects focusing on public health

Projects supported within all FP7 themes are published on CORDIS webpage after the closed negotiation process and signed grant agreement between the EC and the beneficiaries.[44]

Special attention should be given to the LifeCompetence webportal[45], providing useful information on existing consortia and research networks, notably the 680 projects funded by the European Commission within FP6 Life Sciences, Genomics

[44] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html

[45] http://www.lifecompetence.eu

and Biotechnology for Health and International Cooperation for Health. For each project information on the administrative details is provided along with the scientific objectives and in the case of finished projects the actual results from the work performed.

4.1 EU projects – running projects (a selection)

(in alphabetical order)

Name:	**EUCOMM - European Mouse Genome Mutagenesis Programme**
Website:	http://www.eucomm.org
Time frame:	January 2006 - December 2009 (48 months)
Supported by:	6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6), LSH-2004-1.1.3-2 Genome-wide mutagenesis in mouse
Partners:	- Helmholtz Zentruem Muenchen, Institute of Development Genetics, Germany (coordinator) - Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute Hinxton, UK - University of Frankfurt, Germany - Charité, Center for Cardiovascular, Germany - University of Technology, Germany - Institut Clinique de la Souris, France - European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Italy - Medical Research Council, UK - Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy

The EUCOMM integrated project (IP) responds to the priority topic defined by Priority 1: Life Sciences and Biotechnology for Health, 'Genome-wide Mutagenesis in Mouse'.

EUCOMM integrates European skills, efforts, resources, and infrastructure to produce, in a systematic high throughput way, mutations throughout the mouse genome. A collection of up to 20 000 mutated genes will be generated in mouse embryonic stem cells using conditional gene trapping and gene targeting approaches. This library will enable mouse mutants to be established worldwide in a standardized and cost-effective manner, making mouse mutants available to a much wider biomedical research community than has been possible previously.

For a subset of genes relevant for human disease, mutant mice will be established, archived and analyzed. This will offer an opportunity to decipher molecular disease mechanisms and in some cases provide a foundation for the development of diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic strategies.

The project EUCOMM builds on exceptionally strong European expertise in mouse molecular genetics, genomics and bioinformatics and involves two SMEs which will

enable automation of targeting vector production and professional dissemination of material. EUCOMM will foster integration with existing European consortia which address mouse gene expression analysis, mutant phenotyping, imaging and archiving.

Name:	**euHeart**
Website:	http://www.euheart.org
Time frame:	June 2008 - May 2012 (48 months)
Supported by:	7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7), ICT-2007.5.3 Virtual physiological human
Partners:	The project is coordinated by Philips Research Aachen, Germany and scientific coordination is maintained by the Oxford University Computing Laboratory, UK. The team consists of 17 partner organisations from 6 countries including more than 70 people. For more details, please visit, the project's website.

euHeart (full title of the project: euHeart - Personalised and intergrated cardiac care: Patient-specific cardiovascular modelling and simulation for in silico disease understanding and management and for medical device evaluation and optimization) is a European research initiative targeting the personalized diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of morbidity in the western world.

The project's consortium, covering seventeen industrial, clinical and academic partners, aims to develop advanced computer models of the human heart that can be personalized to patient-specific conditions using clinical data from various sources, such as CT (Computed Tomography) and MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scans, measurements of blood flow and blood pressure in the coronary arteries (which feed the heart muscles) and ECGs (Electrocardiograms).

euHeart intends to highlight the benefits of multi-scale models for meaningfully improving clinical outcomes. Individualized models developed during the project will, consequently, be integrated into clinical contexts, to guide disease treatment and management - while data gained from the models' construction will be used to optimize the medical tools employed for cardiovascular intervention.

The use of personalized biophysical simulations will enrich the clinical practice in the hospital by providing patient-specific physiological information about the heart which is currently not available.

Name:	**HR4E - Mapping health research in Europe**
Website:	http://www.research4health.eu/
Time frame:	May 2007 - April 2009 (24 months)
Supported by:	6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6), LSH-2005-3-8 Mapping and identifying recent and current European research efforts and contributions from FP in the context of the Europen Community's Public Health Programme
Partners:	- University of Navarra, Spain (coordinator) - London School of Economics and Political Science, UK - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK - World Health Organization, regional Office for Europe, Denmark - Institute of Public Health of the republic of Slovenia, Slovenia - P.A.U. Education SL, Spain

The project Health Research for Europe (HR4E) aims to contribute to the improvement of health and health systems in the EU through the targeted dissemination of EU health research via Health EU, the EU Health Portal[46]. All completed and ongoing health research conducted within the most recent Framework Programmes including research initiatives undertaken under FP5 and FP6 in the context of the EU Public Health Programme are considered and where appropriate, are made available to the wider EU health community.

The project has a substantial potential impact on public health decision-making at European, national, sub-national and local level through the provision of a single access point for public health data, information and knowledge.

Name:	**NuGO - European Nutrigenomics Organisation: linking genomics, nutrition and health research**
Website:	http://www.nugo.org/
Time frame:	January 2004 - December 2009 (72 months)
Supported by:	6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6), FOOD-2002-T10 Functional genomics in relation to food, nutrition and health
Partners:	The project's consortium consisting of twenty-three partners (research organisations, universities and small-medium-sized businesses from ten European countries) is coordinated by Wageningen University, Netherlands.

[46] http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/index_en.htm

NuGO is a European-funded Network of Excellence (NoE), which does not do research as such, but intends to overcome the fragmentation of research, giving researchers from across Europe the chance to work together, share facilities and their expertise.

A key objective of the network is the development, data-warehousing and exploitation of nutrition and health-related bioinformatics for the benefit of European nutrition researchers, and for the community as a whole. By executing a joint programme of activities, the network strengthens the integration of research structures, and facilitates research, education, communication, commercialization and dissemination, at the interface of genomics and genetics with nutrition and health.

The primary aims of the project are to:

- train European scientists to use post-genomic technologies in nutrition research;
- develop and integrate genomic technologies for the benefit of European nutritional science;
- facilitate the application of these technologies in nutritional research world-wide; and
- create the world-leading virtual centre of excellence in nutrigenomics.

Name:	**RareDiseasePlatform - European platform of integrated information services for researchers in the field of rare diseases and orphan drugs supporting team and project building**
Website:	http://www.rdplatform.org/
Time frame:	May 2008 - April 2011 (36 months)
Supported by:	7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7), HEALTH-2007-2.4.4-2 Research capacity-building in the field of rare diseases
Partners:	The project's consortium is coordinated by the National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM), France. For full list of partners, please consult the project's webpage.

The RareDiseasePlatform project (a continuation of FP6 OrphanPlatform project) aims to create a set of tools intended to facilitate collaborations between academic teams, SMEs and major companies, in the field of rare diseases (RD). These tools will contribute to building up a community of stakeholders with the ultimate goal of speeding up RD research and development, providing diagnostic tools and therapies as quickly as possible.

RareDiseasePlatform is an international initiative bringing together organisations from 13 European countries. It was conceived to address unmet needs of the European rare disease research community, which were identified during a previous project, the FP6 OrphanPlatform project.

The specific objectives of the FP7 project are to:

- identify expert groups in Europe, on-going funded research projects, technological platforms, databases and biobanks relevant to RD research and to release the information in a user-friendly manner on the existing Orphanet website;
- identify, among research projects funded at the member states level and at the EU level, those which are in need of partnership with other academic teams and/or which have a potential for market development and may benefit from a partnership with industry;
- release information on partnership opportunities on the existing OrphanXchange website and adapt the website to meet the needs of all the types of partnerships identified so far;
- develop partner search facilities based on the above mentioned databases and on an ad-hoc basis; and
- develop an electronic newsletter informing the community about newly posted partnership requests and business opportunities.

4.2 EU projects – recently completed projects (a selection)

(in alphabetical order)

Name:	**e4p - Europe4Patients**
Website:	www.europe4patients.org (not in operation anymore) http://www.iese.edu/
Time frame:	February 2004 - January 2007 (36 months)
Supported by:	6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6), 2.1. Health determinants and the provision of high quality and sustainable health care services and pension systems (in particular in the context of ageing and demographic change)
Partners:	The project was coordinated by IESE Business School, Spain (coordinator). Full list of eleven partners is available on CORDIS webpage.

This 11-partner project started from the premise that increasing patient mobility can help EU citizens get the most from European health care systems. Increased mobility would, for example, offer wider access to medical centres of excellence and reduce the discrepancy between demand and supply which can translate into long waiting lists in one country and spare capacity in another.

Europe4Patients began by conducting an in-depth analysis of national and European legal frameworks, rules on contracting for health services across borders and systems for ensuring quality of care. The results fed into reports on each of these issues, as well as a scenario analysis on the impact of possible actions and recommendations for decision-makers on practical and monitoring arrangements.

These results were passed on to policy-makers at European, national and regional levels. A series of case studies outlining what is happening on the ground around the EU was prepared. The individual studies address topics such as sharing capacity nd the use of centres of excellence, cross-border hospital cooperation, cross-border contracting, including the example of the arrangements set up between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to promote peace and reconciliation between the two populations.

One important spin-off of the project is a publication that, for the first time, describes how every Member State is addressing the challenge of assuring high quality of medical care.

Name:	**SPHERE - Strengthening Public Health Research in Europe**
Website:	http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-health/sphere/
Time frame:	January 2005 - December 2007 (36 months)
Supported by:	6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6), POLICIES-2.1 Health determinants and the provision of high quality and sustainable health care services and pension systems
Partners:	The consortium of 19 European public health experts from 13 EU Member States was led by the UK Faculty of Public health in collaboration with the European Public Health Association (EUPHA).

The aims of the SPHERE project (Specific Support Action) were to describe European public health research activities, including support by national governments, and advise how research can be integrated with European health policy and practice.

In years 2005-2007, SPHERE worked through three activities:

- Bibliometric studies of European public health research literatures in the period 1995-2005, for the research field overall, six specialist public health areas and a separate study of French databases;
- Describing public health research arrangements, from national ministries of health and research, European institutions, NGOs, researchers & allied research organisations; and
- Discussing implications, and dissemination through the European Public Health Association and Global Forum for Health Research.

SPHERE undertook reviews of six specialist fields of public health literature. These were chosen as representative of the main areas of public health science. Moreover, they also reflected the activities of Scientific Sections within the European Public Health Association, which offered contact with researchers in these fields across Europe. Partners undertaking the literature researches used electronic databases to

search for papers using particular keywords; and to be included must have been original research and published within the given time period.

A summary of the topics: environmental health, genetics, health management, health promotion, health systems and services, infectious disease control, French literatures and the Bibliometric overview can be downloaded on the webpage.

Name:	**TRIoH - Targeting Replication and Integration of HIV**
Website:	http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/molvirgen/projects/trioh/indextr.htm
Time frame:	January 2004 - June 2007 (42 months)
Supported by:	6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6), LSH-2002-1.2.1-4 Novel antiviral therapeutic molecules targeting virus replication and integration
Partners:	The project consortium was coordinated by the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium.

The TRIoH project integrated different research efforts from various European partners on novel anti-HIV molecules targeting viral replication and integration. One main approach was multidisciplinary proteomics to study the basic science of HIV replication and integration, with special focus on the identification of new, cellular host factors.

Basic science, biotechnology and provocative chemistry guided the development of new HIV therapeutics, leading to the development of new pre-clinical phase I compounds by consortium participating partners.

Different Biotech SMEs were actively involved in the development and valorisation programme. Drug development included all aspects of present day drug development: chemical synthesis, drug evaluation in enzymatic and cell culture assays, modelling and co-crystallisation, mechanism of action studies including biophysical measurements, antiviral resistance development and analysis, toxicological and pharmacological evaluation in cell culture and animal models.

4.3 International public health projects linking European Union and Latin American countries

Name:	**ELAN2Life - Europe-Latin America Network for boosting international cooperation in the field of Life Sciences**
Website:	http://www.elan2life.net/
Time frame:	January 2006 - June 2008 (30 months)
Supported by:	6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6); priority: Life Sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health, LSH-2004-3-2 Stimulating international co-operation,LSH-2004-3-4 Realising ERA objectives.
Partners:	The project was coordinated by European Research and Project Office GmbH, University of Saarland and following countries were represented in the project's consortium: Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Germany, Spain and Belgium.

The overall objective of the ELAN2Life project was to stimulate and enhance international cooperation in the field of life sciences and health (LSH) between Europe and LAC countries by stimulating the creation of regional nodes able to carry coherent and sustainable system of actions in order to raise public awareness of cooperative opportunities, supporting partnering, facilitating inclusion of research teams from Latin America into European consortia, and promoting best European practices of research and project management.

The following specific objectives were pursued:

- Establishing a network of information nodes on the basis of partner institutions in four leading LAC countries with S&T Agreement (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico) and Peru;
- Ensuring sustainable operation within the project and beyond by promoting the individual nodes on a national level, establishing links to national LSH authorities and funding programs, and by building links between the network and European LSH National Contact Points (NCP);
- Raising public awareness of cooperative opportunities of FP7 and potential LSH partners in Europe and Latin America by organizing information and partnering events, distributing information via various channels, and by creating and maintaining web-based directories of potential LSH partners in Latin America;
- Improving research and project management skills in the selected LA target countries by adapting and implementing special training measures targeted at the staff of information nodes and other multipliers (training of trainers); and
- Reducing barriers on the way of partnership building by providing complementary travel support to those researchers in Europe and LAC who expressed mutual interest in consortium building or in involvement of researchers from the region into running European projects.

The final meeting of the Elan2Life consortium was organized in Toulon, France at the end of May 2008 and sustainability of measures and infrastructures initiated during the project lifetime was discussed.

'Analytical report on EU - Latin America cooperative opportunities in Life Sciences' providing information about funding possibilities in FP7 is available on the project webpage. [47]

Name:	**AlloStem - Development of Immunotherapeutic Strategies to Treat Haematological and Neoplastic diseases on the Basis of Optimised Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation**
Website:	http://www.allostem.org/
Time frame:	April 2004 - March 2008 (48 months)
Supported by:	6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6); LIFESCIHEALTH-1.2.4 Development and testing of new preventive and therapeutic tools, such a somatic gene and cell therapies (in particular stem cell therapies, for example those on neurological and neuromuscular disorders) and immunotherapies.
Partners:	The project was coordinated by the Anthony Nolan Trust, UK and following countries were represented in the project's consortium: United Kingdom, Russia, Czech Republic, Spain, France, Argentina, Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Belgium, Brazil, Sweden. Associate Members are represented by European countries (e.g. Austria, Ireland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and non-European countries (e.g. Mexico, USA, Israel, Chile).

The 'Development of Immunotherapeutic Strategies to Treat Haematological and Neoplastic diseases on the Basis of Optimised Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation' (AlloStem) project brought together clinical and research groups from the field of immunotherapy to coordinate and complement their efforts into a unified and directed programme.

The project's partners were developing new protocols for the treatment of patients with haematological disease and for the effective delivery of immunogenomics-based therapies. The project delivered improvements in health care for EU citizens' new genome-based pharmaceuticals which could be exploited worldwide. Partners in the AlloStem project included SMEs with expertise in the area of immunohaematology therapy.

The final meeting of the project was held in London, UK in March 2008.

[47] http://www.elan2life.net/fileadmin/elan2life/public_website/downloads/Report_cooperative-oportunities.pdf

Name:	**@HEALTH**
Website:	http://ahealth.eupm.net/
Time frame:	January 2006 - June 2008 (30 months)
Supported by:	6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6); IST programme
Partners:	For full list of partners, please consult the project webpage.

@HEALTH supported and stimulated international cooperation in the eHealth sector among European and Latin American organizations. The project provided web-based and off-line support services to facilitate communication and exchange of knowledge, and to support technology transfer actions and initiatives of joint RTD projects.

The specific objectives of the @HEALTH project were to:

- promote scientific cooperation in the field of eHealth, through web-based and off-line matchmaking actions;
- stimulate and sustain technology transfer actions and joint RTD projects, supported by public and/or private funding programmes;
- act as an open forum to foster dialogue between eHealth users, technology developers and researchers from different European and Latin American countries;
- provide an exhaustive Data-Base of relevant organisations and competences related to eHealth in Europe and Latin America;
- facilitate sharing of best practices and needs in eHealth, and to support exchange of researchers between Latin American and European organizations.

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6 List of Acronyms / Definitions

CIP - Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme
CORDIS - Community Research and Development Information Service
COST - European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research
CPs - Contact Points
CSA - Coordination and support actions
CT - Computed Tomography
DG - Directorate General
EAHC - Executive Agency for Health and Consumers
EC - European Commission
EIT - European Institute of Innovation and Technology
ERA - European Research Area
ERA-NET - European Research Area Network
ERC - European Research Council
ESF - European Science Foundation
ETPs - European Technology Platforms
EU - European Union
EUPHA - European Public Health Association
EUR - Euro (currency)
FP5 - 5th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development
FP6 - 6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development
FP7 - 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development
ICT - Information and Communication Technologies
ICPC - International Co-operation Partner Countries
IP - integrated project
IMI - Innovative Medicines Initiative
IMI JU- Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking
JRC - Joint Research Centre
JTI - Joint Technology Initiative
KICs - Knowledge and Innovation Communities
LAC - Latin America and the Caribbean
LSH - Life Sciences and Health
MRI - Magnetic Resonance Imaging
NoE - Network of Excellence
NCP - National Contact Points
PI - Principal Investigator
PPP - Public-Private Partnership
RD - rare diseases
R&D - Research and Development
SICA - Specific International Cooperation Actions
SRA - Strategic Research Agenda
SRA/SDD - Strategic Research Agenda and Strategy Deployment Document
STREP – Specific Targeted Research Project
TP - Technology platform
UN - United Nations
WGs - Working Groups
WHO - World Health Organization