

EC Partner

Ministries in charge of Science and Technology in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution: € 6 000 000 (80% of the total)
- Duration: From 03/2006 to 03/2011
- Mercosur member countries: Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay
- 80 workshops held to identify sector needs
- High regional interest: 475 media articles and 1 500 hits on the project website



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Regional Integration

Support to the development of biotechnologies in MERCOSUR - BIOTECH

The Bioteconsur platform is an opportunity to strengthen our cooperation with other countries and promote their existing potential. This strategy aims at developing biotechnologies to consolidate MERCOSUR as the main producer capable of solving the world food problems, without threatening the natural resources.

Dr. Eduardo Trigo. Technical Secretary of the BIOTECSUR platform



Context

MERCOSUR countries rely on research and development for growth. Biotech applications are intensively used in MERCOSUR, especially in the pharmaceutical and agricultural field. However, the biotech sector in the region presents three main weaknesses. First of all, the availability of information on the sectors is insufficient and scattered. Secondly, the regional coordination on the biotechnology sector is limited, and finally, MERCOSUR enterprises are not involved in the research and application of the biotechnologies.

Objective

- To establish regional coordination in the biotech sector and to define and implement a regional strategy for the biotech sector.
- To facilitate and promote technology transfer from the academic to the private sector.

Impact

- Studies provided a clearer picture of the sector. The results were compared with EU experience.
- A regional biotech platform "BIOTECSUR" was created. Members of the academic, public and private sectors integrate this platform.
- Regional biotechnological demands in the agricultural, industrial and healthcare sector were identified.
- Five regional integrated projects brought forward are being funded following a € 3 million call for proposals.
- A MERCOSUR strategic plan for biotechnologies was drawn up and validated by MERCOSUR authorities.

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Biotechnology: A global challenge

“Biotechnology is an innovation that involves all economic sectors - science, technology and natural resources. In order to reach higher levels of sector productivity it is necessary to work together as a region. We think that Biotecsur (www.biotecsur.org) will help consolidate the bio-business, combining the best practices from the past (the biological knowledge of the region) with new trends, including the development of biotechnologies for new markets”.

Dr. Fabian Capdevielle: Technical Secretary of the BIOTECSUR platform.



Biotechnological demands in the agricultural sector were identified.