



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EuropeAid Co-operation Office

Latin America

Centralised operations for Latin America

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**COUNTRY BRIEFING
ON REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES**

PANAMA



PROGRAMME REVIEW JULY 2010

I - PANAMA – COUNTRY PROFILE

Capital	Panama City
Population	3.391 million (ECLAC 2008)
Surface Area	75, 520 sq km (WDI)
Population Density	45 people per sq km



Aid per capita* (2007): -40 USD**

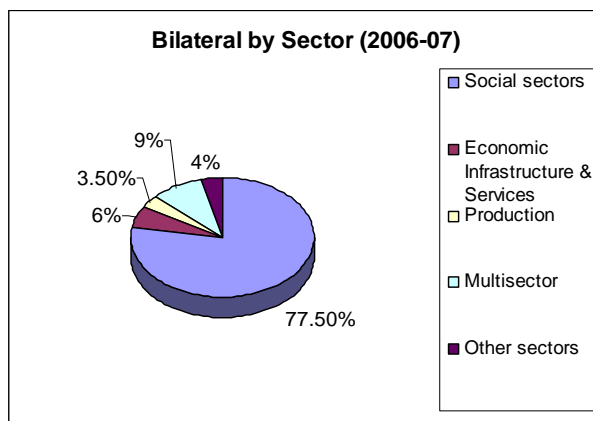
Official Development Assistance (ODA)***			
	2005	2006	2007
Net ODA /GNI	0.1%	0.2%	-0.7%

Top 10 Donors of gross ODA (2006-2007 average in USD m)***	
1 United States	17
2 United Kingdom	14
3 Spain	9
4 Japan	8
5 EC	8
6 IDB Sp. Fund	2
7 UNAIDS	1
8 Korea	1
9 UNTA	1
10 Germany	1

People (ECLAC)*
 Urban Population (2005).....**68.7%**
 Population Growth rate.....**1.6%**
 Life Expectancy at birth.....**75.6 years**
 Fertility rate.....**2.6 children per woman**
 Illiteracy Rate in over 15 year olds (2010).....**6.0%**
 Unemployment Rate – urban areas.. **7.2%**
 Population in poverty** **29.0%**

Economy (WDI 2009 and ECLAC)*
 Economic Sectors (value added, % of GDP)
 Agriculture.....**7%**
 Industry.....**17%**
 Services.....**77%**
 GDP Growth (2008).....**9.2%**

Trade and Finance (WDI 2009 and ECLAC)*
 Currency.....**Balboa (PAB)**
 GNI per capita (Atlas method, 2008).....**US \$6,180**
 Total external debt**US\$ 8.2 billion**
 Total debt service.....**5.3%**
 Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**US\$ 1907.2 millions**



*Note: Here Social Sectors do not include ODA towards Education and Health & Population****

* Data refer to 2007, unless otherwise indicated. Source: statistics taken from ECLAC 2008 (mainly the 2008 Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean) and from the 2009 World Bank World Development Indicators (WDI), unless otherwise stated.

**Percentage of population having incomes amounting to less than twice the cost of a basic food basket.

*** Sources: OECD and 2009 World Bank World Development Indicators (WDI), unless otherwise stated.

II- CONTEXT OF REGIONAL COOPERATION – AIMS & OBJECTIVES

How are the Centralised Programmes of Regional Cooperation structured and why are they relevant in the present context?

The characteristics of regional cooperation (*centralised co-operation programmes*) can be summarised as follows:

- Strategy of Influence; a privileged tool to promote mutual interests; Interventions on priority areas of regional strategic importance or in response to shared concerns, such as trade and investment promotion, regional integration (economic as well as social and cultural), education and training, social cohesion, information society, governance and civil society, sustainable use of energy and the reduction of vulnerability (*the last including social, environmental and economic dimensions*);
- Existence of networks of partners in the two regions. All countries in these regions are eligible, including Cuba. The partners include the public sector, local actors (*municipalities*), economic operators (*enterprises, chambers of commerce*) and the academic world (*universities, research and training centres*);
- Financing through the economic co-operation budget line (*19.09.02.00 – Economic, Political and Cultural Co-operation with Developing Countries of Latin America*) of multi-annual and co-financed programmes which are then transferred to individual projects. Each programme and project is co-financed by the beneficiaries.

The principal strengths of the regional co-operation, managed at central level and operated by local networks in the EU and LA are:

- Very strong sense of ownership of those actors who are directly involved;
- Visibility given to the political priorities of the EU/LAC strategic partnership as expressed during the Summits, which are translated into concrete actions;
- Specifically European ‘*added value*’, complementing the interstate partnership and strengthening the relations between the two regions;
- Exchanges of know-how and best practice between actors of both regions;
- Coverage of the entire Latin American region (*plus Cuba*) by specific networks;
- Multiplier effects of the networks;
- Economies of scale as compared to other bilateral co-operation actions;
- Strengthening of South-South co-operation;
- Stimulation of development by giving Latin American societies the chance to measure their achievements against similar partners in Europe;
- Permanent efforts to build fuller synergies between the various levels of the co-operation (*bilateral, sub-regional and regional*) – which should supply themselves reciprocally.

III- EU – LATIN AMERICA: REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

With a view to developing closer ties between Latin America and the Europe Union, a number of regional cooperation programmes have been established over the last decade in the areas of social cohesion, territorial cooperation, SME development, Higher Education, information society and sustainable energy.

The EC has earmarked an indicative amount of € 556 million for Latin America for the period 2007-2013 to further support of those programmes: a second phase of **EUROsociAL**, that aims to improve social cohesion, has already been planned and the new **URB-AL III** programme, started in 2008, will pursue territorial cooperation through the promotion of social cohesion policies at the local level. **AL-INVEST IV**, also launched during 2008, continues to support the internationalisation of Latin American SMEs. In the area of Higher Education, the **ALFA III** programme covering the 2007-2013 period, is focused on cooperation for modernising and reforming higher educations systems in LA and on reinforcing the established partnerships between Higher Education Institutions from both regions. The new **Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window** programme, which replaces the **Alban programme** as from 2008, will provide scholarships and promote academic exchanges. In 2009 **@LIS** will start a new phase in which it will continue to facilitate the integration of Latin American countries into the global information society.

AlBan - European Union Programme of High level Scholarships for Latin America

The **AlBan** programme aims at furthering co-operation in the field of Higher Education between the EU and Latin America. The programme promotes increased mobility of Latin American graduates into the European area of Higher Education. Such individuals are given the opportunity to benefit from the excellence of these institutions, thus enhance their employability and enjoy better employment prospects once they return to their own countries. The AlBan programme covers the period 2002-2010 and is now in its second phase (2006-2010). The total budget for this programme is **€109.98 m**, with a European Community contribution of **€84.650m**, (out of which €75m are devoted to scholarships). The annual Calls for Scholarships ended with the 5th Call, in 2006. These call lead to the selection of **3 319** grant-holders coming from the 18 Latin American participating countries. Among these selected candidates, **688** are still studying in the European Union.

Erasmus Mundus – External Cooperation Window

The Erasmus Mundus - External Cooperation Window (**EM-ECW**) Programme is expected to be an opportunity to capitalize on the experience and best practice already acquired by Alban Programme. This programme aims at contributing to the improvement of education and training of human resources, promoting partnerships and institutional co-operation exchanges between Higher Education Institutions. The first Call for Proposals including a Window dedicated to the Latin American Region has been launched in December 2008. The total budget for this window is **€41.6m**, to cover activities during the period **2009-2013**.

ALFA - Latin America Academic Training

The ALFA programme began in **1994** and sought to reinforce co-operation in the field of Higher Education. The programme co-finances projects aimed at improving the capacity of individuals and institutions (*universities and other relevant organisations*). The first phase, ALFA I, with an EC contribution of **€31m**, ran until 1999. The second phase, ALFA II (2000-2005), with a total of 10 selection rounds represented an EC contribution of **€54.6m** distributed to the **225** approved projects (average of 72 % of the total project's costs). Held by **770** distinct institutions organised by means of networks it has been operating more than **3600** training exchanges. The third phase of Alfa (2007-2013), with an EC contribution of **€85m**, is expected to be an opportunity to capitalize on the experience and best practice already acquired to date. The first call for proposals approved 14 projects out of the 130 proposals received, representing a total EC contribution of **€19.3m** of (average per project: **€1.3m**) and the participation of 200 institutions (77% from Latin America).

AL-INVEST enhancing commerce between SMEs

The AL-INVEST programme supports the internationalisation of SMEs in Latin America. The EC launched the programme in **1993** (*EC contribution €11m*) and has started **Phase IV** in 2009 for a total amount of **€62.5m**. The fourth phase of the AL-INVEST which will run until 2012 is implemented through 3 groups of business organisations (*consortia*) belonging to three distinct geographical areas of Latin America:

- Central América-Mexico-Cuba
- Mercosur-Chili-Venezuela
- Andean Region

The three groups of organisations are supported through horizontal services performed by a coordination unit set up by a consortium led by Eurochambres.

Overall, the EC contribution to the programme amounts to **50 million Euro (80 % of the total cost)**.

@LIS Alliance for Information Society

@ Alliance for the Information Society 2 - @LIS 2 - aims to continue the promotion of the Information society and fight the digital divide throughout Latin America. Adopted by decision of the European Commission on 16th November 2008, the @LIS 2 has a budget of **€ 31.25 millions of which € 22 millions (70.4%)** will be financed by the European Commission.

The general objective of this second phase of the programme is to accompany the development of a sustainable, competitive, innovative and inclusive information society, as part of the poverty, inequalities and social exclusion reduction effort, in line with the MDG through the attainment of the following specific objectives:

- Continue to promote, and at the same time improve and extend the dialogue and applications on Information Society in LA.
- Support the homogenization and harmonization of regulatory processes, in the telecommunications sector in Latin America
- Meet the needs of local communities and citizens, as part of a sustainable development;
- Promote the dialogue between all players and users of the information society;
- Increase the interconnection between Research & Development communities of both regions;

The @LIS programme has 3 lines of action with as many projects to be implemented between 2009 and 2012. Each of the projects will contribute to bring closer the communities of players and users of the two regions and facilitate the integration of the Latin-American countries in a global information society.

- Policy and Regulatory Dialogue: Pursue the strengthening of political, technical and social links with Europe in this area, contributing to a greater visibility of this issue in the LA political agendas, leading to more resources channelled to R&D and greater civil society participation in the generation of public policies, involving demonstration projects of the former phase.
- Stimulate and support research intra LA and with Europe: The Program will sustain the continuity of RedCLARA, whilst supporting relations among the researchers and promoting joint projects. To this end it will look to: (i) provide a proper framework for the technical decisions and the subsequent investments in order to ensure compatibility between investments in technology and operational capabilities (ii) favour the long term network sustainability, formalizing operational objectives such as service levels. (iii) allocate funds to promote and support key strategic applications that use RedCLARA. (iv) identify actions to guide the strategic technology decisions. (v) promote co-operation with CKLN network.

- Homogenization and harmonization of regulatory processes, in Latin Americas' telecommunications sector. There is a broad consensus that an effective and stable regulatory framework is essential for the further development of the IS, and notably to strengthen competition and consequently favouring access to ICTs.

According to the Financing decision and the provisions of the current Financial Regulation the three grants have been directly awarded to: ECLAC (*Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*), CLARA (*Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks*), and REGULATEL AD (*Association of Regulators REGULATEL AD*).

URB-AL - Urban Policy Coordination

URB-AL is a decentralised co-operation programme directed at local communities of the EU and Latin America as well as other actors involved in the urban sector. This third phase of the URB-AL Programme, with an EC contribution of EUR 50 million for 4 years, aims to stimulate and support in Latin American countries processes and policies that contribute to generating social cohesion in the cities and medium level territorial entities (departments, provinces, federal states, etc.). There are 21 projects being implemented under the framework of the URB-AL III Programme.

There are no actions currently being implemented in Panama under the Regional Programme URB-AL..

EUROsociAL – Regional Programme for Social Cohesion

EUROsociAL II will be launched by the end of 2010. As its first phase, EUROsociAL II aims at contributing to increase social cohesion in Latin America by promoting reforms and improved management of public policies. This phase will put a stronger emphasis on the demand-driven orientation of the programme. EUROsociAL II will be financed through a single grant of 40 million Euros awarded to a consortium of representative public bodies of Member States in the capacity of applicant or partners with Latin American countries as partners. The call for proposals for EUROsociAL II has been published on the 10th of June, 2010. The deadline for the submission of proposals is the 17th of September, 2010.

The first stage of the Programme EUROsociAL last for a period of **5 years (2005-2010)** and its activities will be ending by the end of July 2010. Until May 2010, 2,320 institutions (1,543 from Latin America and 588 from the EU) represented by 12,506 persons (10,068 from Latin America and 1,967 from the EU) have participated to the Programme. The Programme has supported reforms of public policies, contributed to the empowerment of public institutions responsible for the implementation of these policies and reinforced institutional partnerships between Latin American and European public administrations as well as among public administrations inside the region. One of the main achievements of the project consists in the fact that social cohesion became a conceptual frame of reference increasingly used in policy making and in the political discourse in Latin America. The European Commission's contribution to the programme was **€31,3m**.

More information can be obtained by contacting the programme coordinator at Vittorio.Tonutti@ec.europa.eu, EuropeAid Co-operation Office, Unit B2 or sending your message to the functional mail box: EuropeAid-Eurosocial@ec.europa.eu

Promoting Mutual Understanding in the Framework of the association European Union / Latin America and the Caribbean and strengthening social cohesion and Latin American regional integration

The aim of this **4-year** programme (**2007-2011**) is to enhance mutual understanding between the EU and LAC, strengthening the strategic bi-regional association process, as well as social cohesion and Latin-American regional integration. In 2009, the programme has delivered regular informative products such as the EUROLAT magazine, launched discussion forums, produced studies and provided training on European and EU-LAC affairs. The European Commission's contribution to this programme is **€767,513**. More information can be obtained by contacting the programme coordinator at Vittorio.Tonutti@ec.europa.eu, EuropeAid Co-operation Office, Unit B2.

IV- EU – LATIN AMERICA: NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION

EURO-SOLAR

The objective of EURO-SOLAR is to promote the use of renewable energy sources in the poorest countries of Latin America and improve living conditions in combating poverty, particularly that of indigenous groups. It permits those in the poorest rural areas without access to the national grid to access a source of electricity generated by sun and wind. EURO-SOLAR provides these communities with a system of photovoltaic panels, in some case combined with small wind panels, in order to generate electricity and other applications for community use in the field of education, health and communication. The installation of a maximum of **600** such facilities is planned. The countries participating in the EURO-SOLAR programme are **Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru**. The programme was approved by the Commission in May 2006 with a total contribution of 24 €M and a duration of 4 years. In December 2008, the Commission decided to add an amount of 4.7 €M to extend the programme of nine months and to face budget shortage in the supplies call for tender.

The Financing Agreement entered into force on 18 January 2007 and first addendum to include the additional budget and the 9-month extension was signed in September 2009. The Service contract has been awarded to a consortium led by the Spanish company Socoín Ingeniería y Construcción Industrial S.L.U. The technical assistance contract was signed in July 2007 and activities started in the field with local partners, in particular governmental institutions, by September 2007. The eight supply contracts (*one per country*) have been signed end of 2008 / beginning of 2009. The equipments have been sent to the countries in the following months and the first kit has been installed in Peru end of 2009. During the 1st semester 2010, a significant part of the equipments have been installed. All of them are foreseen to be functioning in the rural communities by the end of 2010.

For more information about EURO-SOLAR, please contact the Programme Coordinator:

Jose-Maria.Gonzalez-Y-Gonzalez@ec.europa.eu

Climate Change:

Climate change is unquestionably the *challenge of our times*. As such, “*Sustainable Development: Environment, Climate change and Energy*” was one of the key themes of the 5th EU-LAC Summit (*Lima – May 2008*).

In December 2008, the Commission decided to co-finance a "*Review of the Economics of Climate Change in South America*" (*RECCs*). The purpose of the study is to make an economic analysis of the impacts of climate change in selected countries of South America in the areas of mitigation and adaptation of selected sectors. The total foreseen budget of the study is €630,000 (*EC contribution: €500,000*). The contribution agreement to implement the RECCs has been signed with UN-ECLAC, which is jointly coordinating this study with the government of UK (*DFID*), IADB and the Government of Denmark and Spain.

During 2009, another study has been carried out in collaboration with Latin American countries. The study "*Climate Change in Latin America*" has been published in December 2009. This publication was elaborated on the basis of the information compiled through questionnaires sent to each Latin American country and to each EU Member State during the identification phase of the EUrocLIMA Regional Programme.

In parallel, the EUrocLIMA programme has been approved by the EC on 18 December 2009 with a total foreseen EC contribution of €5,000,000 for three-year duration. The programme has been officially launched on 28-29 April 2010 in San José (Costa Rica). The specific foreseen objective aims at improving knowledge of Latin American decision-makers and the scientific community on problems and consequences of climate change, particularly in view of integrating these issues into sustainable development strategies. The socio-economic component (implemented by UN-ECLAC) and the scientific component (implemented by the Joint Research Centre in Ispra) have started in the first semester of 2010.

For more information about Climate Change programmes, please contact the Programme Coordinator:
Jose-Maria.Gonzalez-Y-Gonzalez@ec.europa.eu.

COPOLAD – Cooperation Programme on Antidrug Policies

COPOLAD has been prepared during 2009 and is planned to start in 2010. The General Objective of the Programme is to contribute to improved coherence, balance and impact of anti-drugs policies in Latin America. The Programme specifically aims to strengthen capacities and encourage the different stages of the process of elaborating anti-drugs policies in Latin American countries by improving the dialogue and strengthening the cooperation of the national agencies and other actors charged with global and sectoral anti-drugs policies in the countries of Latin America and EU. The Programme is structured in four components: Policy support and dialogue and consolidation of the EU-LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs; Knowledge and consolidation of the national Observatories; Building capacity in reduction in demand and; Building capacity in reduction of supply. The Programme is planned for 4 years and will have a total budget of € 6 million. More information can be obtained by contacting the Programme Coordinator Vittorio.Tonutti@ec.europa.eu.

RALCEA – Latin American Network of knowledge centres in the water sector

The European Union Water Initiative (*EUWI*) represents the European Union's most specific contribution to support the implementation of the Decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in September 2002. It stands for a common European approach to meet the challenges of water-related Millennium Development Goals.

In this frame, the RALCEA Project -Latin American Network of knowledge centres in the water sector- has been adopted by the European Commission in December 2009 and will start its activities in mid-2010.

The RALCEA Project will support the establishment of a network of knowledge centres in the water sector. For that purpose, a plan of activities, to better coordinate the research work of the knowledge centres and to reinforce it towards the support to the policy decision level, will be implemented. Complementarily, a common strategic plan in capacity development will be settled. Emphasis will be in governance trainings addressed to public in the technical level and viceversa, in order to approach mutual understanding. Therefore, the development of capacities in the water sector in Latin America, will contribute to a sustainable water resources management and to obtain information-based policies, coherently with the objectives of the EU Water Initiative in the region.

This Project, which will be implemented in the Latin American Region during 4 years, has a total budget of € 2.5 million, of which € 2 million will be granted by the European Commission.

For more information about RALCEA, please contact the Project Coordinator:
Jose-Maria.Gonzalez-Y-Gonzalez@ec.europa.eu

LAIF – Latin America Investment Facility

The LAIF's main purpose is to promote additional investments and key infrastructures, focusing on transport, energy, and environment, also to support social and private sector development in the Latin American countries.

LAIF operates via financial non-refundable contributions to support loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and other European, multilateral and national, development financial institutions to partner countries. It encourages beneficiary governments and public institutions to carry out essential investments, allowing an increase in risk and credit ceilings, which cannot be financed either by the market or by the development finance institutions separately.

The types of operations financed under the LAIF are the following:

- Investment co-financing in public infrastructure projects;
- Loan guarantee cost financing;
- Technical assistance (*financed as part of a specific investment operation or as a global envelope made available to eligible financial institutions*);
- Risk capital operations (*financed as part of a specific investment operation or as an envelope made available to eligible financial institutions*).

LAIF's grant award procedure is based on the approval by the Operational Board (*composed by the European Commission and member states*) of the projects selected by the Finance Institutions Group - FIG- (*composed by all eligible Finance Institutions*). Projects are selected by the FIG from a pipeline established from the list of operations submitted by the Finance Institutions for a possible financing from the Facility.

The contribution of the Commission to the LAIF is decided annually. For the year 2009 the Commission allocated an amount of € 10.85M. Additionally, a commitment of €24M is already in process of approval, expected to finalise in the second semester 2010. The "*mid term review and regional indicative programme 2011-2013 for Latin America*" foresees a total amount of €125 million for the LAIF up to 2013.

The European Commission organised in Brussels a presentation of LAIF for Latin American Embassies and non-European Finance Institutions in March 2010. The Facility was officially launched during the EU-LAC Summit in May in Madrid.

LAIF have had an equally enthusiastic response from Partner Countries, Member States and Finance Institutions, proof of which is that for the period 2010-2011, 17 projects have been pre-identified, representing a total investment cost of approximately € 3.5 billion, a potential lending of over €1.8 billion and a potential grant contribution of about € 92 million.

More information can be obtained by contacting the programme coordinator:

Jose.VILLAGRA-BARRIO@ec.europa.eu or EuropeAid-LAIF@ec.europa.eu or at our website:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/latin-america/regional-cooperation/laif/index_en.htm

V- PANAMA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAMMES OF REGIONAL COOPERATION

Panama's participation in AlBan - European Union Programme of High level Scholarships for Latin America

At the **first AlBan call** for candidates for the academic year **2003/2004**, 251 scholarships were awarded. On average, they were for a period of two years, the average EC contribution being €26,700 per scholarship, with a total EC contribution of € **6.7m**. Out of **251 selected candidates**, only **1 (approx. 0.4%)** was from Panama and their area of study was Law.

At the **second AlBan call (2004/2005)**, 779 scholarships were awarded, again for an average of two years, with an average EC contribution of €26,000 per scholarship amounting to a total of € **20.22m**. Of the 779 selected, **7 (approx. 0.9%)** are from Panama, who study mainly Social Sciences.

At the **third AlBan call (2005/2006)**, 553 scholarships were awarded, again for an average of two years, with an average EC contribution of €26,800 per scholarship amounting to a total of € **14.86m**. Of the **553 selected**, **4 (approx. 0.7%)** are from Panama.

At the **fourth AlBan Call (2006/2007)**, of the total 930 scholarships awarded, **8** are Panamanians.

At the **fifth AlBan Call (2007-2008)**, 806 scholarships were awarded, **3** are Panamanians.

As indicated in the table below, the AlBan scholarships awarded to Panamanians in the course of the programme represent almost 1%.

Scholarships awarded to Panamanian nationals by type of course				
Year	Master	PhD	Specialization	Total
2003	1	0	0	1
2004	5	1	1	7
2005	3	1	0	4
2006	2	6	0	8
2007	3	0	0	3
Total Panama	18	4	1	23
TOTAL AlBan all LA countries	1803	1426	90	3319

Main AlBan Events in Panama

At the moment the programme does not foresee any events in Panama for this year.

More information is available on the AlBan website:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/projects/alban/index_en.htm

Alternatively contact the Programme Coordinator, Mr José Gonzalez y Gonzalez:

Europeaid-infoalban@ec.europa.eu

Panama's participation in ALFA III - Latin America Academic Training

In the context of the 1st Call for proposals, **3** eligible Higher Education Institutions (**HEIs**) from Panama participate in **4** of the **14** approved projects of ALFA III.

The EC financial contribution to the activities carried out by the **4** projects in which Panama participates is **€6.9m**, which represents on average **80%** of the total cost of projects.

Main ALFA Events in Panama

9-10 March 2010, Panama, ALFA III Information and Training Meeting, organised by the European Commission.

More information is available on the ALFA website:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/projects/alfa/index_en.htm

Alternatively contact the Programme Coordinator; Mr José Gonzalez y Gonzalez:

Europeaid-infoalfa@ec.europa.eu

Panama's Participation in AL-INVEST - enhancing trade and investment between SMEs

The AL-INVEST IV project "*The Internationalisation of SMEs from Central America, Mexico and Cuba as an engine of economic development*" is implemented by a consortium of business organisations led by Nacional Financiera (*NAFIN*) from Mexico. In Panama one organisation implements the Phase IV of AL-INVEST:

- Panama Exporters Association (*APEX*).

More information can be found on the AL-INVEST website: <http://www.al-invest4.eu>

Contact: Linda Villarruel Rivas (*NAFIN*), [linda@al-invest4camc.org]

Alternatively contact the Programme Coordinator:

Vittorio.Tonutti@ec.europa.eu

Panama's Participation in @LIS - Alliance for Information Society

Panama has one partner in the Network of Researchers (*ALICE II*), **RedCyT** and one in the Network of Regulators called **Ente Regulador de los Servicios Públicos**.

The @LIS project currently on-going in Panama and its member are:

PROJECT NAME	NAME OF MEMBER
"Consolidación de la red de Reguladores de Telecomunicaciones de América Latina"	Ente Regulador de los Servicios Públicos
"Extending and Strengthening RedCLARA as e-infrastructure for Collaborative Research and Support to Development"	RedCyT
"@LIS 2 –Alianza para la Sociedad de la Información 2, - Diálogo político inclusivo e intercambio de experiencias"	Government representatives

Main @LIS Events in Panama

- No events previewed.

More information is available on the @LIS website:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/projects/alis/index_en.htm

Alternatively contact the Programme Coordinator; Mr José Gonzalez y Gonzalez
europeaid-infoalis@ec.europa.eu

Panama's participation in URB-AL - Urban Policy Coordination

In its second phase, the URB-AL programme consisted of **thirteen thematic networks** co-ordinated by a single local authority. All local actors who wished to co-operate on a given theme, could participate in a corresponding network, which served as focal point and forum for discussion. Joint projects were then designed and implemented within the networks. Out of the six cases where a thematic network was coordinated by a Latin American local authority, **Panama coordinated none of these networks**. To date, and within the framework of URB-AL I and II, **188** joint projects had been selected, of which **3** counted with the involvement of Panama local authorities (*2% of the projects*). There were **no external members** from Panama who participated in URB-AL I and II joint projects.

There are now **3** local authorities involved in the present, third phase of URB-AL, which represents approximately **2%** of the total number. None of them, however, coordinates a project.

Main upcoming URB-AL Events in Panama

No events foreseen at present

More information about this programme can be found on the URB-AL website;

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/projects/urbal/index_en.htm

Alternatively contact the Programme Coordinator;

Vittorio.Tonutti@ec.europa.eu

Panama's participation in EUROsociAL – Social Cohesion Programme

The general objective of the EUROsociAL programme is to contribute to increase the degree of social cohesion of the Latin American countries while acting on the public policies of education, health, administration of justice, taxation and employment, considered to be the main social cohesion vectors. These five areas are co-ordinated by four different consortia and the International Labour Office.

Up to June 2010, **25** institutions from Panama took part in **109** activities, which involved **158 participants**.

Some examples of the most significant results of the Programme in Panama are:

- **Justice:** support to the reinforcement of coordination mechanisms between public bodies, which are in charge of the fight against corruption, and contribution to the setting up of a specialized unit within the Directory on judicial investigation of the national police, assistance to the Judicial Body of Panama which has improved its system of management of judicial statistics; support to the formulation of Brasilia Rules on the Access to justice for vulnerable groups which were adopted lately by Supreme Courts, Judicial Councils, Public Ombudsmen, Public Ministries and Prosecutor Offices of the Latin American countries;
- **Taxation:** contribution to the setting-up of the EU LA network on fiscal education and of the EU LA fiscal administrations network on electronic administration; support to the Executive Secretary of the National Council on Transparency in preparation of a draft of the Code of conduct for public servants.

Main EUROsociAL Events in Panama

No more events foreseen in Panama for EUROsociAL I.

More information about this programme can be found on the EUROsociAL website; <http://www.programaeurosoci.al.eu>.

Alternatively contact the Programme Coordinator: Vittorio.Tonutti@ec.europa.eu at the EuropeAid Co-operation Office, Unit B2 or send your message to the functional mail box EuropeAid-Eurosoci.al@ec.europa.eu

Panama's participation in LAIF – Latin America Investment Facility

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for SME in Central America (final approval)

The LAIF Board approved on the 30th April 2010 a regional project led by **KfW** (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) and co-financed by **CABEI** (Central American Bank for Economic Integration) that focus on **energy efficiency and renewable energy for SME in Central America**, being Panama part of the beneficiary countries of the action.

The project objective is to facilitate the access of the SMES from the six Central American countries to financing for environmental investments related to energy efficiency and renewable energy technology.

Key facts of the project

- **Total cost:** € 36.3 million.
- **LAIF contribution:** € 3 million.
- **Lead finance institution:** KfW (€ 30 million).
- **Co-financing institution:** CABEI (€ 3.3 million loan).
- **Type of LAIF support:** Energy audits and feasibility studies.
- **Expected start of project:** 2nd half of 2010.
- **Expected end of project:** 3-4 years.
- **Beneficiaries:** Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and **Panama**.

The local finance institutions will channel the resources of the programme to SME for the environmental projects identified accordingly to the selection criteria.

The funds of the programme will support additional financing for projects that include among others: replacement of lighting, boilers, engines, air conditioning units, solar photovoltaic cells and small wind projects.

The EU contribution finances the technical assistance component, focusing on the co-financing of energy-audits of SME, feasibility studies of small renewable energy projects and the promotion and implementation of the programme.

The programme will help SME (95% of private enterprises, up to 45% of the labour force) in Central America to face the volatility of oil prices that affects their economic stability and to comply with increasingly stricter environmental regulation.

The project will contribute to ease the dependency of oil in Central America, the reduction in CO2 emissions, increase renewable energy use in SME production cycles and promote energy efficiency.

More information about this programme can be found on the LAIF website;

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/latin-america/regional-cooperation/laif/projects_en.htm

Alternatively, further information can be obtained by contacting the programme coordinator:

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