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New Brazilian Bureau for Enhancing the International Cooperation with the European Union (**BB.Bice**)

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COORDINATOR

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List of partners

University of Brasilia - Centre of
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Centre to Support the Technological
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Background and objectives

The Brazilian Bureau for Enhancing the International Cooperation with Europe (BB.BICE), a project funded by the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), initiated its activities in October 2005 aiming to promote and improve the cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) between Brazil and the countries of the European Union. It aimed at improving Brazilian participation in the Sixth and Seventh Framework Programmes of Research and Development, through the dissemination of information related to their cooperation opportunities. BB.BICE was also responsible for helping Brazilian research institutions and enterprises to prepare and negotiate project proposals to be submitted to the European Commission.

The BB.BICE project, which was approved in December 2007 as a result of the BILAT call, will allow for the continuity of the activities initiated by BB.BICE, such as maintaining a

web page, disseminating information through other media, searching for European partners to set up research projects with Brazilian institutions, and developing an institutional database of Brazil's scientific, technological and innovative competences.

The BB.BICE project will be administered by the University of Brasilia - Centre to Support the Technological Development of the University of Brasilia (CDT-UnB), and developed by the Centre of Advanced Studies of Government and Public Administration (CEAG/UnB) in association with the Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology (IBICT), a research institute linked to the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology (MCT). A Steering Group will be created with the main role of monitoring BB.BICE implementation and contributing to the achievement of its objectives.

<http://www.bbice.unb.br/>



Overall strategy

During the development of the FP6 project BB.BICE, two aspects were identified as relevant for enhancing the collaboration between Brazilian research institutions and European ones. The first aspect is a clear definition of the research areas and/or topics relevant for international cooperation. Beyond the mere identification of the research area, progress is needed in the specification of the Research topics for cooperation and appropriate instruments should be then identified. This exercise will be carried out in BB.BICE in coordination with the EULARINET project.

Another relevant aspect for advancing the international cooperation in ST&I between Brazil and Europe that will be carefully taken into account in BB.BICE, is a well structured exchange of knowledge between both scientific communities. Although the existence of the Internet and other electronic forms of communication contribute to enhancing the knowledge between researchers from different countries and continents, nothing can substitute direct contact.

Implementation and dissemination activities

In order to better disseminate information concerning the opportunities offered by FP7, the BB.BICE project will optimise the updating of its web page, distribute its monthly electronic newsletter (in Portuguese, English and Spanish), and improve its institutional database to better facilitate partner searching (Brazil Search Technological Information (TI)).

Activities will also be developed by BB.BICE including the following.

■ Development of studies, evaluations and structured surveys

BB.BICE will develop an analytical function regarding actions at the programme and policy levels. Examples of these studies are an analysis of current scientific and technological cooperation between Brazil and Europe in all 10 thematic areas of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The analysis will include a report on the most recent developments, a list of research priorities and a survey of the

existing research infrastructures, including human resources available.

This activity will also involve: the preparation of a short analysis about the participation of Brazilian institutions in FP7; the realisation of relevant events, such as workshops, seminars or meetings; and the preparation of short studies/reports about specific thematic issues like biofuels, new materials, nanotechnology, etc.

■ Improvement of the participation of Brazilian Technological Base enterprises in FP7

This activity is very relevant for BB.BICE, because it concerns the participation of the Brazilian technology-oriented enterprises in FP7. The way these enterprises work and their perception of Research and Technological Development is quite different from that of the public research institutions. Also issues such as Intellectual Property Rights, Technology Platforms and Joint Technology Initiatives are to be considered.

■ Advancement of the coordination between BB.BICE and other International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC) Information Platforms

Taking into account the results of the previous coordination action between the four Latin American information platforms (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico), BB.BICE will include an activity aimed at keeping an active flow of information between BB.BICE and other information platforms. Besides those of Latin America, links with other information platforms need to be considered, in particular with those in Australia and South Africa, which have developed relevant work.

■ Implementation of events aimed at identifying priorities for collaboration and enhancing the quality, quantity and visibility of future actions

The objective of this activity in the context of BB.BICE is the development of workshops and meetings involving representatives of the scientific and technological communities of both Brazil and Europe in order to promote a better knowledge of mutual research interests, and identify research themes and topics that should be considered for cooperation activities.

Expected impact

Research in science and technology between Brazil and Europe will be significantly improved with the BB.Bice project.

The project will maintain and amplify the information services supplied by the dedicated website, will implement the Brazil Search TI data base, develop state-of-the-art studies concerning the current capacity of the Brazilian scientific and technological structure in respect of the ten FP7 thematic areas, and develop other mechanisms with the main objective of enhancing the international cooperation in ST&I between Brazil and Europe.

Another considerable expected impact of the project is the changes that the information platform could bring to current Brazilian scientific and international cooperation practices. By promoting better coordination, and a more extensive information dissemination activity, BB.BICE could effectively structure the cooperation channels supporting the individual scientists.