



Latin America

Coordinating Latin America Research and Innovation NETWORKS - EULARINET

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Coordination ■ Ministry of Education and Science - MEC ■ Spain

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1. Background and objectives

EULARINET stems from the agreed common vision for S&T cooperation between Latin America (LA) and the EU that evolved during the Summits in Rio de Janeiro (June 1999), Madrid (May 2002) and Guadalajara (May 2004), and that ended with the Guadalajara Declaration on the creation of a EU-LA Knowledge Area. The project builds on existing structures and will be reinforced and extended to the appropriate areas in order to cover all countries and strategic concerns of mutual interest and benefit.

EULARINET's goal is to strengthen bi-regional dialogue on S&T between EU Member States, Associated States and Latin American Partner Countries (LAPC) at policy, programme and institutional (research and industry entities) levels, thus contributing to a three-fold objective:

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

2. Dialogue activities

EULARINET will establish a network between European and Latin American stakeholders (research groups, universities, industry, policymakers, programme managers and civil society) to identify priorities of mutual interest and benefit for both regions.

Bilateral sub-regional dialogues will be organised annually in the three sub-regions of: Mexico and Central America; Andean countries; and the

Mercosur (Southern Common Market) countries, involving stakeholders from policymaking, science and industry communities. A co-leadership between LAPC and EU partners will ensure balanced responsibility and participation in the activities.

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

Overall EULARINET will:

- structure the communication channels by offering ad-hoc fora for bi-regional dialogue on S&T policy between LA and the EU, for the exchange of views and information on national and bilateral S&T policies relevant for bi-regional S&T cooperation, and for a more comprehensive and structured exchange with LAPC regarding the research activities of the European Commission (EC);
- promote regional integration as an asset, both for good neighbourhood relationships in Latin America and for heightening the attractiveness of S&T cooperation through regional networking;
- address global issues of common interest and benefit, and develop scenarios and concrete recommendations for actions on these matters, with emphasis on S&T activities that address topics related to the EU Framework Programme (e.g. Specific International Cooperation Actions – SICAs).

Links with broader EU S&T policies will contribute to social and economic development and stimulate an environment for transnational scientific cooperation of both individual scientists and institutions. EULARINET will try to ensure a coherent approach, develop synergies with other relevant EU programmes and policies, and maintain a constant information flow to ongoing policy dialogues.

3. Implementation and dissemination activities

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

Specific workshops, training sessions, etc. will be carried out, and a number of horizontal events aimed at awareness raising and information dissemination will be implemented through a series of national, regional and bi-regional conferences, as well as seminars and workshops on S&T cooperation opportunities. Depending on the respective objective, the events will address various groups of stakeholders from the scientific, industrial and policymaking communities.

The following events are anticipated:

- national and regional Information Days in LA on FP7, in close cooperation with the respective stakeholders (governments, science organisations, and National Contact Points and FP7 Contact Points);
- specific information sessions at EU conferences informing on the S&T potential of LA;
- sub-regional conferences in LA (e.g. Mexico and Central America) addressing the future cooperation with the EU.

Selected targeted political events, addressed to political stakeholders on national, regional and EU level, will be targeted so as to raise awareness

on the opportunities and challenges of a closer bi-regional cooperation between the EU and LA.

The following outputs are foreseen:

- A dedicated website with public and private areas that will link to other relevant websites — a variety of information websites already exist, devoted to cooperation with LAPC — with advanced functionalities to support collaborative dialogues among the partners.
- A new EU-LA internet portal, as a future single point of access building on existing websites and electronic information provided by previous and ongoing projects on EU-LA S&T cooperation.
- A series of publications to disseminate the major EULARINET activities, findings and events to external stakeholders including industry, society and the research community; these include regional magazines, advertisements about achievements on science, and technology benefits for society.

4. Monitoring and review activities

Monitoring will be focused on past and ongoing cooperation activities, and will provide a complete view of the modalities and intensity of the bi-regional cooperation through continuous monitoring in each of the participating LA countries.

Main activities will involve:

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

List of partners

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