



EUROPEAN COMMISSION / European Research Area / International cooperation

# Towards the EU-LAC Knowledge Area

Scientific and Technological  
Cooperation between  
Latin America, the Caribbean  
and the European Union  
for Sustainable Development  
and Social Inclusion

## Interested in European research?

**Research\*eu** is our monthly magazine keeping you in touch with main developments (results, programmes, events, etc.). It is available in English, French, German and Spanish. A free sample copy or free subscription can be obtained from:

European Commission  
Directorate-General for Research  
Communication Unit  
B-1049 Brussels  
Fax (32-2) 29-58220  
E-mail: [research-eu@ec.europa.eu](mailto:research-eu@ec.europa.eu)  
Internet: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/research-eu>

**EUROPE DIRECT is a service to help you find answers  
to your questions about the European Union**

Freephone number (\*):  
**00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11**

(\*) Certain mobile telephone operators do not allow access to 00 800 numbers  
or these calls may be billed

### LEGAL NOTICE:

Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use which might be made of the following information.

The views expressed in this publication are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet.  
It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2010

ISBN 978-92-79-15624-3  
doi 10.2777/23024

© European Union, 2010  
Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Pictures © Shutterstock, 2010

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Research  
Directorate D - International Cooperation  
Unit D.1 - International Dimension of the Framework Programme

Contact: *Cornelia Nauen*

*European Commission  
Office SDME 5/83  
B-1049 Brussels*

*Tel. (32-2) 29-92573  
E-mail: [Cornelia.Nauen@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Cornelia.Nauen@ec.europa.eu)*

*[www.ec.europa.eu/research/inco](http://www.ec.europa.eu/research/inco)*

# Towards the EU-Latin America & Caribbean Knowledge Area



## TOWARDS THE EU-LAC KNOWLEDGE AREA – TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Political leaders in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean recognise the critical role of knowledge in proposing solutions to increasingly complex and global challenges to our societies. We also know that generating new knowledge through research is of paramount importance and more specifically, that international cooperation in science, technology and innovation is an excellent way to increase our ability to tackle common problems. This is why governments, other organisations and individuals on both sides of the Atlantic are investing in better education for more robust long-term solutions. Most importantly, we have a lot of underutilised potential for translating these efforts into innovation in different spheres of the economy and society at large.

The Guadalajara Summit in 2004 already placed on the political agenda the development of an EU-LAC Knowledge Area for solving societal problems and creating new opportunities. We have clearly made progress in this direction, though there is much more to be done. So the renewed focus on how to harness the ‘knowledge triangle’ – education, science and technology, and innovation – is timely.

The main theme of the EU-LAC Summit in Madrid in May 2010 targeting technology and innovation for sustainable development and social inclusion directs us to take a fresh look at the building blocks gathered so far for meeting the ambitions. These entail shared political and operational commitments in many areas.



## A JOINT INITIATIVE FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

In this context, a new “Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation” should be developed to become the framework within which all the countries involved and their regional organisations and mechanisms can shape their work towards these ends. It is intended to instill additional momentum into bi-regional cooperation. The EU-LAC Ministerial Conference on science and technology in Madrid prior to the Summit is part of this process of consolidating relations.

The development of our relations can also build on Science and Technology Cooperation Agreements established between the European Union and four Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico). Other countries and sub-regions have signed agreements of a general nature with the EU that have education, science and technology sections. In addition to substantial bilateral cooperation between countries, bi-regional cooperation uses instruments from several policy areas, including foreign affairs and security policy, technical and economic cooperation, trade and scientific cooperation. We can also build on policy dialogue frameworks in key areas of mutual interest, including a more regular dialogue of senior officials in science and technology, as proposed by the European Commission Communication “The European Union and Latin America: Global players in partnership” .

A number of concrete steps have been taken to increase cooperation thanks to steady operational support. To this end, all South American and several Central American and Caribbean countries have now nominated FP7 contacts to provide information and institutional support for their teams’ international exposure and cooperation.

## FROM DIALOGUE TO ACTION

Under the 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7: 2007-2013) international cooperation is mainstreamed into all its parts. In addition, a specific activity on “International Cooperation” has been introduced to support the bilateral and biregional cooperation and better coordinate EU Member States’ initiatives that will underpin the foundations of a European Research Area (ERA) truly open to the world. During the first three years the number of projects with LAC participations already exceed or come close to those of the five years of FP6: 515 participations of Latin American (500) and Caribbean (15) teams in 226 projects. The estimated EU contribution to these projects exceeds €470 million. In the Work Programme 2011 of FP7 a special focus on Latin America and the Caribbean seeks to boost this cooperation further with particular attention to topics of direct relevance to the Summit theme, including those related to health as well as on major environmental and climate change challenges.



Multilateral financial institutions active in the region, such as the World Bank (WB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), have included science and technology in their credit lines. The IDB is currently negotiating another round of loans to boost S&T capacity in several countries. Moreover, renewed efforts are under way towards LAC integration and development through several political processes.

A large part of the collaborative research opportunities are indeed directly relevant for improved transitions towards sustainable development and more social inclusiveness. Particular attention is paid to creating an enabling framework for such cooperation. Coordination of international scientific cooperation among and with Member States is gradually being enhanced in more structural ways through the Strategic Forum on International Scientific Cooperation (SFIC), created in 2009 as a result of a Council Decision. The ERA-Net EULANEST led to pooling of some resources among EU Member States involved for a joint call and several INCO-Net projects support joint prioritisation

and enable more in-depth analyses and more regular exchanges.

The Commission's own Joint Research Centre (JRC) mandated to provide scientific underpinning for European policies is also active in some areas of particular interest to Latin America and the Caribbean. One such example is the initial damage assessment provided by the JRC three days after the earthquake struck Haiti on 12 January 2010 to support the relief effort.

### **SYNERGIES BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, HIGHER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

The science and innovation-oriented activities under European Framework Programmes are largely complementary to and intended to be mutually reinforcing with bi-regional and bilateral technical and financial cooperation through external relations policies. These operate through – geographically focused - National and Regional Indicative Programmes and also provide support through thematic budget lines, such as on “Environment and



sustainable management of natural resources, including energy” and another one entitled “Investing in people”. For the period 2007 to 2013, very substantial investments have also been made through regional programmes estimated at €556 million. They include @ lis II, the Alliance for Information Society, EUROsocial for social cohesion, URB-AL for urban policy coordination, AL-INVEST IV for enhancing commerce between SMEs, ALFA III on higher education and the Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window programme, which since 2008 replaces the ALBAN Programme in funding high-level scholarships for Latin America. The ACP Science and Technology Programme, which started in 2008, allocates up to €5M to S&T policy capacity building for 15 Caribbean countries and Cuba; a successor project is included in the current All-ACP Indicative Programme. Naturally, by far the largest efforts are being undertaken by countries themselves.

Taken together with bilateral initiatives of EU Member States as well as well-established regional scientific cooperation mechanisms,

these activities illustrate that the policy objective of gradually building up a EU-LAC Knowledge Area is making some headway. New structuring mechanisms between research programmes and projects, such as twinning, and synergies of the activities under different policies can consolidate and expand this thrust further.

### **THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUMMIT ACTION PLAN**

Some specific activities are being developed in support of the Madrid Summit orientations. In addition to the already mentioned LAC focus in some FP7 calls, a more pro-active and synergistic use of a wide range of existing capacity building programmes and mechanisms is anticipated. A special effort is also under preparation to increase the uptake of research results into productive processes as well as strengthening links between the European research and business communities and their Latin American peers through a ‘Knowledge and Innovation Centre’ networking existing centres, projects and actors.



# EULARINET - Fostering European Union-Latin American Research and Innovation NETWORKs

EULARINET is a 4-year Coordination Action funded under the International Cooperation programme (Capacities Specific Programme) focused on a three-pronged objective:

- a) Promote the joint identification, establishment, implementation and monitoring of priorities of mutual interest and benefit for future work programmes across FP7.
- b) Support joint definition of science and technology (S&T) co-operation policies.
- c) Support and stimulate the participation of relevant Latin America partner organisations in FP7.

EULARINET establishes a bi-regional platform bringing together EU and LA policy makers and programme managers and representatives of research entities, universities and the private sector to set up dialogue fora at different levels aimed at supporting the joint identification of S&T policies, instruments and research priorities. Joint identification of priorities has already led to some concrete results thanks to uptake of suggested topics in FP7 thus contributing to an increase in S&T cooperation.

As political background, EULARINET supports the ongoing EU-LAC S&T dialogue, initiated since the Rio Summit in June 1999, the 2004 Guadalajara Declaration demanding the development of an EU-LAC Knowledge Area and other intermediary steps leading up to the 2010 Madrid Summit that places innovation and technology at the heart of the EU-LAC political agenda.

EULARINET also builds on the achievements of a wide range of existing co-operation programmes. In this respect, activities include:

- Promoting the setting up of bi-regional and sub-regional S&T platforms, involving stakeholders from policy making, science community and industries.
- Offering fora that involve industrial partners aimed at enhancing the potential of science-industry partnerships in the uptake of knowledge and innovation.
- Carrying out strategic analyses based on evaluation, impact assessments and scenario studies, in order to strengthen the knowledge base for the bi-regional/bilateral dialogue and to support priority setting.
- Promoting the identification of joint research priorities devised by EU-LAC experts.
- Organising dissemination events and trainings to increase the participation of Latin American researchers in FP7.
- Supporting synergies of S&T co-operation activities with activities under other EU policies (external, environmental, innovation etc.) towards the LA partners.



The project runs from 01/03/2008 to 28/02/2012 and receives an EU contribution of about €3 million. The consortium is coordinated by Dr. María Ángeles Rodríguez Peña of the Spanish Ministry for Research and Innovation and includes partners from 7 European Member States and Associated Countries -Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Spain- and 7 Latin American countries -Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Uruguay.

[www.s2lat.eu/](http://www.s2lat.eu/)



# EUCARINET - Fostering the European Union - Caribbean Research and Innovation Policy Dialogue and Networks

Scientific Research and Innovation has been identified as a major driver of progress as it supports economic growth and competitiveness, and remains a key to tackle global challenges such as climate change, energy, health, and food security, etc.

The EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7: 2007-2013) contributes to address these challenges. FP7 is open throughout to international cooperation and encourages participation from researchers from all over the planet. Teams from international cooperation partner countries (ICPC – all developing countries and emerging or transition economies) are eligible for funding.

In order to foster the international scientific and technological cooperation, the European Commission has set up a number of networks for international S&T cooperation or "INCO-NETs", co-funded by FP7 and operating on a bi-regional basis between the EU on one hand, and a partner region on the other.

Such an INCO-NET project specifically engaging with the Caribbean, EUCARINET, was launched on the 1st April 2010. The project's main objectives are:

- to support a dialogue between all relevant stakeholders on Science and Technology policy with the aim to jointly define co-operation policies for mutual benefit;
- to foster inter-regional (EU-Caribbean) and intra-regional cooperation in S&T notably through the identification and prioritisation of research areas of mutual interest;
- to stimulate and support the participation of the Caribbean scientific research community in FP7, through a number of support measures such as training workshops, thematic seminars and other matchmaking events.

Finally, to maximise impact and exploit synergies, the EUCARINET partners will strive to coordinate their actions with a variety of other projects and instruments currently in place, such as:

- EU external policies, in particular activities carried out by means of the European Development Fund (EDF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), targeting ACP countries and the overseas departments;
- the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCI), an EU instrument for external assistance;
- the CIP and the 'Enterprise Europe network' (EEN), supporting enterprise creation and competitiveness as well as investments, innovation and technology transfer;
- all the specific programmes described in the European Commission's Communication "An EU-Caribbean Partnership for Growth, Stability and Development" (COM(2006) 86 final);
- the EU-funded EULARINET coordination action, geared towards strengthened S&T dialogue with Latin American partner countries;
- the Pro€Invest programme, promoting investment and technology transfers in ACP countries and others.

EUCARINET runs from 01/04/2010 to 31/03/2014 and receives an EU contribution of €1.53 million to its budget. This project is coordinated by Dr Diassina Di Maggio of the Italian Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE). The consortium consists of 13 organisations from both regions: Barbados, Belgium, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Italy, Jamaica, the Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Spain, UK and Trinidad & Tobago.



# ENLACE - Enhancing Scientific Cooperation between the European Union and Central America

ENLACE - Enhancing Scientific Cooperation between the European Union and Central America is an INCO-NET for Central America. It aims at supporting the bi-regional dialogue between the EU and Central America (CA) on Science and Technology (S&T) issues, identifying common interests in research, setting up common S&T priorities and supporting capacity building activities.

The objectives of ENLACE are implemented in co-operation with the project EULARINET that aims at covering the whole of Latin America.

To achieve the objectives of ENLACE, different activities are planned: dialogue meetings between S&T experts from the EU and CA to identify research priorities of mutual interest; organizing training activities and awareness raising sessions on FP7 in CA, organizing events to enhance the participation of the private sector as well as the networking among EU and CA researchers.

Dissemination events and travel grants for researchers will provide concrete tools to boost the participation of the Central American countries in FP7. Among these, the "FP7 Adventure" campaign in the Central American countries, works to bring ENLACE results to policy makers and the scientific community.

The Central American partners are in charge of the project's activities in the region, e.g. carrying out the analysis of policies and research priorities to compile national position papers and a regional position paper; identifying selected organisations able to act as future FP7 Contacts, and organising training sessions in their countries (in coordination with EU partners).

Moreover, all Central American partners participate in several joint activities at different levels: management; S&T dialogue platform; dissemination and raising awareness in CA and EU. These activities as a whole will serve to create a strong Central American regional network of competent actors, interconnected with each other and with the EU region, thereby promoting regional integration on high-level research and reinforcing the bi-regional dialogue on S&T between CA and the EU.



ENLACE will run from 01/11/2009 to 31/10/2014 and will receive an EU contribution of €1.6 million. The project is coordinated by Dr. Diassina Di Maggio of the Italian Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE). The consortium consists of 15 organisations from both regions: Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Spain.

[www.enlace-project.eu](http://www.enlace-project.eu)

© Picture by  
Carlos Mancinelli

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

The central objective of this coordination and support project was to connect high-quality research organisations in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) with those of the European Union. It aimed at supporting the inclusion of some of the best research organisations of Latin America and the Caribbean in projects funded under calls for proposals launched under FP7, focussing on the following thematic priorities: Health; Agriculture, Food and Biotechnology; Information Society Technologies; Energy; Environment; and Social Sciences and the Humanities.

The project activities focused on the following:

- to spread the information about the identified institutions to the European research community and National Contact Points (NCPs) for the respective areas;
- to support transcontinental partner search;
- to promote the participation of LAC researchers in major European conferences in order to enabling them to present their research results in Europe and connect to science communities there;
- to promote the setting up of a “help desk” facility in a Liaison Office and;
- to edit four thematic reports on the European S&T landscape in thematic fields in which the selected Latin American R&D institutions have revealed scientific strengths.

The directory with information about 98 high-quality R&D institutions in LAC countries was published in June 2008.

All beneficiaries of the grant scheme were able to make a large number of contacts with European researchers and research institutions. This was a major success of the project. More than half of all grantees were able to find European partners for their research projects during their stay in Europe. Eleven of the grantees were invited to join a European research consortium.

The business plan for setting up a Liaison Office in Brussels was based on the results of a survey among identified stakeholders. The Liaison Office should be set up shortly under the lead of the project coordinator and CERCAL in Brussels.

Four thematic reports present information about relevant initiatives and support mechanisms at EU level in thematic areas in which the Latin American R&D institutions in the LAC-ACCESS directory had revealed scientific strengths. The reports are published on the project's website. A Spanish print version was also sent to relevant decision makers and stakeholders in LAC.

Systematic dissemination in Europe proved to be a challenge, but the website is considered a cost-effective route. The consortium also noted that the incentive structures and some terminologies were different in both regions and could be a source of misunderstandings unless more frequent interaction and cooperation led to greater cooperation.

The project ran from 01/01/2007 to 30/04/2009 and had an EU contribution of €410.000. The consortium was coordinated by Stefanie Reinberg of the Latin America Institute (LAI). The four partners were from Belgium, Chile and Austria.

[www.lac-access.net](http://www.lac-access.net)

LAC-ACCESS



# DENCO - Towards successful dengue prevention and control

## DENFRAME - Innovative diagnostic tools and therapeutic approaches for dengue disease

Dengue is the fastest spreading insect-borne viral disease with enormous public health importance for a large part of the world population. The two INCO projects had strong complementary teams and work schedules. Frequent coordination meetings ensured timely exchange of concepts and results.

The DENCO (for Dengue Control) project was designed for producing new evidence through basic and implementation research for more effective dengue prevention and case management to reduce morbidity and mortality, for testing novel vector control tools and translating the research findings into policy and practice. The clinical work and field trials allowed the testing of several vector control strategies under the conditions in different Asian and Latin American countries.

Transdisciplinary research teams from dengue endemic countries together with European partners and the Special Programme for Research and Training (TDR) at WHO have produced crucial evidence for improved dengue case management and vector control which have found their way into the new WHO published global dengue guidelines.

The sister project DENFRAME aimed primarily at improving the dengue management in human populations in Latin America and Asia through the development of new diagnostic tools and of better ways to inhibit dengue virus replication. The consortium also studied a comprehensive approach of innate immune response to dengue virus infection.

### Dengue case classification by severity

#### Dengue ± warning signs

#### Severe dengue



#### Criteria for dengue ± warning signs

##### Probable dengue

- Live in/travel to dengue endemic area. Fever and 2 of the following criteria:
- Nausea, vomiting
  - Rash
  - Aches and pains
  - tourniquet test positive
  - Leucopenia
  - Any warning sign

##### Laboratory confirmed dengue

(important when no sign of plasma leakage)

##### Warning signs\*

- Abdominal pain or tenderness
- Persistent vomiting
- Clinical fluid accumulation
- Mucosal bleed
- Lethargy, restlessness
- Liver enlargement >2cm
- Laboratory: Increase in HCT concurrent with rapid decrease in platelet count

\* Requiring strict observation and medical intervention

#### Criteria for severe dengue

##### 1. Severe plasma leakage leading to:

- Shock (DSS)
- Fluid accumulation with respiratory distress

##### 2. Severe bleeding as evaluated by clinician

##### 3. Severe organ involvement

- Liver: AST or ALT ≥ 1000
- CNS: Impaired consciousness
- Heart and other organs

DENFRAME ran from 01/11/2005 to 31/10/2008 and received an EU contribution of €2.55 million. The consortium was coordinated by Dr. Laurence Baril of the Louis Pasteur Institute in Paris, France. It was composed of 13 teams from the following countries: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Mexico, Vietnam and UK.

[www.ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/emerging-epidemics/projects/150\\_en.html](http://www.ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/emerging-epidemics/projects/150_en.html)

DENCO ran from 01/11/2005 to 31/10/2008 and received an EU contribution of €2.5 million. The consortium was coordinated by Dr. Thomas Jänisch of the University Hospital Heidelberg, Germany. It was composed of eight teams from the following countries: Belgium, Cuba (as Venezuelan sub-contractor), Germany, Philippines, Thailand, Venezuela, Vietnam and WHO.

[www.ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/emerging-epidemics/projects/149\\_en.html](http://www.ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/emerging-epidemics/projects/149_en.html)



# LEISHEPINETSA - Control strategies for visceral leishmaniasis (VL) and mucocutaneous leishmaniasis (MCL) in South America: applications of molecular epidemiology Networks

The Leishmania are single-celled parasites transmitted by sand flies, which cause disease in humans and dogs. In South America, the subgenus Viannia causes cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) or severe mucocutaneous leishmaniasis (MCL). In Europe and South America, Leishmania (L.) infantum causes fatal visceral leishmaniasis (VL).

The overall aim of the project was to apply molecular methods to improve the understanding of the epidemiology of the subgenus Viannia and L. infantum in South America. This helped to

- elucidate the parasite-vector-host relationships,
- assess the epidemiological impact of L. infantum/HIV co-infection (in Brazil),
- assess the epidemiological importance of recombinant Leishmania genotypes, and
- assess the spread of resistance against first-line treatment.

The consortium carried through its intensive laboratory research as well as its extensive epidemiological work in endemic areas for VL and MCL in Brazil, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. It also implemented an intensive exchange and training programme, thus contributing to capacity building and consolidating EU-LA collaboration.

The newly developed tools enabled comparisons between the different epidemiologies of CL, MCL and VL in South America and mapping the distribution of drug-resistant genotypes. The database with research findings in South America was linked to an existing database in Europe to enable wider use of the valuable datasets for analyses.

Surveying the knowledge, attitudes and practices among health professionals gave valuable insights for devising and recommending more cost-effective methods for identifying genetic groups of Leishmania and improving strategies for control and surveillance. Uptake and use of the results are expected to help improve public health and alleviate poverty.

The project ran from 01/01/2006 to 30/09/2009 and received an EU contribution of almost €2.5 million. The consortium was coordinated by Dr. Michael A. Miles of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the UK. It was constituted by 12 teams from the following countries: Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, UK and Venezuela.

[www.ist-world.org/ProjectDetails.aspx?ProjectId=166f5f1c2677470295f8233d0fc99182](http://www.ist-world.org/ProjectDetails.aspx?ProjectId=166f5f1c2677470295f8233d0fc99182)



## EQUITY-LA - Impact on equity of access and efficiency of Integrated Health care Networks (IHN) in Colombia and Brazil

The inequities of Latin American health systems were accentuated by the economic crisis in the 1980s. By the end of the 1990s, the scenario was not much improved: public expenditure as percentage of gross domestic product in health had not increased and private expenditure remained high. Health insurance coverage had decreased in most countries and access and use of health care had deteriorated. Despite some regional improvements, inequalities remained pronounced as could be seen in higher maternal and infant mortality rates in marginalised groups.

In the light of renewed efforts at greater social inclusion and equity over the last two decades in many Latin American countries, reforms of financial and delivery structures as well as different models of allocation of resources have been implemented. The research focuses on a major component of these health service reform policies: the introduction of Integrated Healthcare Networks (IHN). IHN has been defined as a network of organisations that provides or arranges to provide a coordinated continuum of services to a defined population and is willing to be held clinically and fiscally accountable for the outcomes and the health status of the population served. The two countries analysed in this research – Colombia and Brazil – have different types of health systems, but share its principles. Both have introduced policies promoting IHN.

The research is designed to increase understanding of the impact of the policies on equity of access, efficiency and continuity of care seen from the stakeholders' perspective. It should provide insights into the factors and the actors' influence on access to care and continuity of service as well as assessing delivery performance. The consortium expects to be able to produce evidence, validated methodologies and advice that can be useful in evidence-based policy analysis and implementation. In so doing, it could contribute to the institutional efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in relation to material and child health by reducing inequalities in access to health care by means of publicly oriented health care organisations in the health sector.



The project runs from 01/03/2009 to 28/02/2013 and receives an EU contribution of about €1.72 million. The consortium is coordinated by Dr. María Luisa Vázquez of Consorci Hospitalari de Catalunya (CHC), Spain and has four partners from respectively Belgium, Brazil, Colombia and Spain.

[www.equity-la.eu/](http://www.equity-la.eu/)



## GUAVAMAP - Improvement of guava: linkage mapping and QTL analysis as a basis for marker-assisted selection

The guava fruit tree (*Psidium guajava* L.) is native to the tropical regions of the Americas. Although considered relatively minor in terms of commercial world trade, it is widely grown in the tropics and enriches the diet of millions of people in that region. The largest producers are the countries of North, Central and South America, notably Mexico and Brazil, as well as India and Thailand in Asia. The economic importance of guava is related to the use of its fruit, which contains high amounts of vitamins A and C, dietary fibre and calcium, and to its multiple derived products, such as juice, cream, jams, desserts etc. Other important uses of guava include tropical medical treatment for diarrhoea and fungal infections.

The project aimed at improving the utilisation of the perennial tropical guava fruit crop through classical conservation of the guava germplasm, complemented by molecular analysis of guava biodiversity.

The consortium identified and characterised new genotypes and utilised them in marker-assisted breeding programmes according to local needs in participating Latin American countries. It applied biotechnological methods to study biodiversity and support the breeding programmes. To this effect it established a gene bank with guava varieties adapted to a range of environmental and growing conditions. The Brazilian guava accessions, specifically the identification of 11 indigenous *Psidium* species (“araçá”) by partner CPATSA as sources of resistance to the devastating root knot nematode *Meloidogyne mayaguensis* now form the basis for controlled crosses and development of new, nematode-resistant germplasm for breeding varieties of guava. This nematode is the major pest disease of guava in Brazil and has destroyed more than 60% of the commercial production in Northeast Brazil. The grafting of nematode-resistant rootstocks with commercial guava cultivars and experiments on cross-pollination have been initiated and offer prospects for the development of new, pest-resistant varieties. The breeding program in Cuba with IIFT as subcontractor was based on an existing germplasm collection. A total of 25 genotypes are now being replicated in plots for the evaluation of important agronomic traits in order to select new cultivars for production in Cuba.

Dissemination of project results culminated in the organization of the “2nd International Symposium on Guava and Other Myrtaceae” (<http://www.cicy.mx/eventos/guavasymposium2008>) in November 2008 in Mérida and Aguascalientes, Mexico. This was followed by two weeks training courses in bioinformatics and biotechnology. The consortium gave scholarships to two young Mexican and Cuban researchers respectively and has a particularly high output of PhDs and Master students and well as an outstanding yield of publications. The collaboration will continue beyond the duration of the INCO project through the organisation, by two project partners, of the 3rd and 4th International Symposium on Guava and Other Myrtaceae in Brazil (2011) and Venezuela (2014) respectively, under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS).

The project ran from 01/11/2005 to 31/08/2009 and received an EU contribution of €925,000. It was coordinated by Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Rohde of the Max Planck Institut für Züchtungsforschung (MPIZ) in Cologne, Germany. The six partners were from Brazil, France, Germany, Spain and Venezuela (with Cuba as subcontractor).

[www.neiker.net/neiker/guavamap](http://www.neiker.net/neiker/guavamap)



## LOTASSA - Bridging genomics and agrosystem management: Resources for adaptation and sustainable production of forage Lotus species in environmentally-constrained South-American soils

In South America, livestock feeding relies mainly on grazing systems. Grassland productivity therefore determines livestock production to a large extent. Pastures incorporating legumes have higher productivity and nutritional value for livestock production. In the Southern Cone of Latin America, over 45 million hectares of pastures could be improved using forage legumes. Among legumes, forage Lotus species have greater potential for adaptation to environmentally-constrained areas than other species. Breeding and selection for tolerance to abiotic stresses is restricted by the reproduction system of cultivated Lotus and the complexity of physiological and metabolic responses involved. Abiotic stress investigated here was particularly focused on water scarcity, salt and pH.

The large consortium collaborating in the LOTASSA project set out to tackle the task in a systematic way. The model *L. japonicus* was used to identify molecular markers associated to stress tolerance that were tested later in forage Lotus species of interest. The LOTASSA consortium, characterized at the phenotypic and genotypic levels existing Lotus spp. genetic resources, and developed new genotypes with superior abiotic stress tolerance.

In addition, to optimise nitrogen fixation by Lotus, the LOTASSA consortium, isolated, characterised and selected highly-performing, stress-tolerant bacterial strains for forage Lotus spp. of interest in the targeted constrained environments. The implications for agro-ecosystem management were also investigated as experience shows that even the best cultivars under experimental conditions may fail if incompatible with prevailing agro-ecosystem management.

This productive combination of advanced science, hands-on agronomy and attention to socio-economic conditions is generating effects well beyond the duration of the project and the consortium partners.

The consortium not only achieved its set objectives but also produced a particularly large harvest of scientific outputs and publications and paid special attention to disseminating results within the scientific and agronomic communities.



The project ran from 01/12/2005 to 31/05/2009 and had an EU contribution to its budget of almost €2 million. The consortium was coordinated by Prof. Juan Sanjuán of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) in Spain. The 16 partners were from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Germany, Slovakia, Spain and Uruguay.  
[www.lotassa.com/online/site/643211.php](http://www.lotassa.com/online/site/643211.php)





## PALMS - Palm harvest impacts in tropical forests

Tropical forests harbour thousands of useful plant species that are harvested, managed and used in subsistence economies or traded in local, regional and international markets. The effect of harvesting on the ecosystem and the influence of managing wild plant populations is little known. Moreover, forest resilience is badly understood.

Palms are the most commercially useful group of plants in tropical American forests. The PALMS-project examines effects of extraction and trade of palm resources on forest in north-western South America. The project determines the size of the resource and the genetic structure of useful palm species in order to predict how harvesting contributes to genetic erosion of palm populations. A parallel objective is to determine how palms are used for subsistence in different forest types and to map trade patterns for palm products from local to regional, national and international markets. The researchers also want to discover how palm use influences the ecosystem. They examine different ways in which palms are managed and how national level policy mechanism that govern extraction, trade and commercialisation of palm products influence extraction. Based on the obtained detailed knowledge of the resource, its genetic structure, the ecosystem resilience, and use and harvest practices, PALMS will propose management regimes and policies that contribute to a sustainable use of the resource.

PALMS employs a variety of methods, adapted to the project's diverse components. The ecological component gathers data directly in the field and employs eco-informatics to analyse them. The genetic component of the project uses advanced molecular techniques to study nuclear microsatellites and chloroplastic sequences. The ethno-ecological management, economic botany and policy components gather data through interviews and use advanced statistics for analysis. Data compilation and communication employ state-of-the-art IT for gathering, storing and presenting data, information and results through advanced computer based portals.

PALMS generates detailed ecological estimates of the magnitude of palm-resources available for human use in tropical forest in north-western South America, covering both subsistence and commercial uses in cash economies at local, regional and international level. The project's genetic components provide understanding of the spatial variation of this resource. The use of related components of the project quantifies human extraction of palm products and estimates effects of extraction on the ecosystem. The management and policy components of PALMS generate tools for understanding and proposing possible interventions. Finally, based on results from all project components, PALMS will propose measures and suggest actions for sustainable use of palm resources in tropical forests, particularly in north-western South America. The results will be disseminated in a variety of ways, depending on need and stake holders, from popular leaflets, videos for farmers and reports for policy makers to scientific publication for the research community.

This FP7 project runs from 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2013 and has an EU contribution to its budget of about €3.15 million. The consortium is coordinated by Prof. Henrik Balslev of Aarhus University, Denmark. The other 9 partners are from Bolivia, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Peru, Spain and United Kingdom.

[www.fp7-palms.org/](http://www.fp7-palms.org/)



© Picture by  
Dennis Pedersen

## VALORAM - Valorising Andean microbial diversity through sustainable intensification of potato based farming systems

VALORAM explores and expects to make use of Andean soil microbial diversity for the development of alternative, efficient technologies and crop management practices to improve the sustainability and productivity of Andean potato-based cropping systems benefiting rural farming households. The project focuses on the potato because of its great importance for small-scale farmers in the central Andean highlands. The participants will use metagenomic, genomic, proteomic and metabolomic analyses to identify novel traits of microorganisms and characterise beneficial soil microbial communities, to achieve the objective of improving the production of high quality potato crops. Its fundamental approach connects the most advanced genomics and other frontier research with traditional knowledge about farming systems centred on potatoes.

The project's specific aims are to:

- (1) explore the agro-ecosystem functions of soil microbes in potato-based cropping systems and preserve the components of this microflora in international culture collections,
- (2) elucidate the role of rhizosphere microorganisms and communities in promoting plant growth, suppressing soil borne disease and priming plant biotic defences, developing eco-efficient technologies/products for sustainable crop production systems,
- (3) develop applied technologies and knowledge-based systems to improve the sustainability and resilience of potato based cropping systems for the benefit of the indigenous farmers and
- (4) promote the exchange of scientific knowledge and technologies among partners and the LA scientific community to impulse research in this area and support the continuous development of crop production technologies.

The strategy for VALORAM implementation is to engage LA and EU partners in developing and further strengthening collaborative research activities in order to sustainably improve potato-based systems. This is supported by a multidisciplinary team of experts with highly complementary skills, and based on a robust management structure and an efficient workshop and communication programme. The results will directly benefit the local LA partners and may also contribute to increase the productivity of organic potato production in the EU.



© Picture by CIRAD

The project runs from 01/02/2009 to 31/01/2014 and has a total budget of €3.8 million and an EU contribution of €3 million. It is coordinated by Prof. Stéphane Declerck of the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, and mobilises 8 partners from Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Ecuador, Germany, Ireland and Peru.

[www.ucc.ie/en/valoram/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/valoram/) - the Spanish version is at <http://www.ucc.ie/en/valoram/Spanish/>



## MAKING THE LINKS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### LINKING RESEARCH, POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

In 2008, DG Research together with DGs Development, EuropeAid and (then) External Relations developed Guidelines on Agricultural Research for Development that will direct Commission support in the area of agricultural research for developing and emerging economy countries. In addition, through the European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD), a new strategy for the coordination of European donors and Research and Development policies supporting agricultural research for development has been developed by the EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland.

In the same vein, DG Research is promoting, together with DGs Development and EuropeAid, an innovation system and

multi-stakeholder approach to research for development, linking mostly public research institutions along with Civil Society Organisations (NGOs, Farmers Organisations) and private companies in Europe and other continents. The first example of such a bi-regional multi-stakeholder platform is ongoing between Africa and Europe as is a follow-up of an FP 6 “Specific Support Action” (PAEPARD). It facilitates the identification of research for development priorities and the submission of research proposals to the EU instruments (FP7, Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) of the Development Cooperation Instrument and the European Development Fund (EDF)). The development of a similar platform is currently explored with the Forum for the Americas



on Agricultural Research and Technology Development, FORAGRO. FORAGRO's Executive Committee recently endorsed the concept of developing a “Platform for LAC Region / European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development” inserting it as a priority in its Plan of Action. The first operational steps towards the establishment of this partnership platform, in the form of joint missions and workshops involving EIARD and FORAGRO partners, will be implemented before the end of 2010 with the financial support of the FSTP. A homologue platform is expected to be developed with the Asian region.

### TWINNING

Key areas for future economic, social and environmental areas needing more information to innovate in sustainable ways and face up to the major challenges can advance faster, when research programmes funded in different parts of the world affected can align their priorities or projects. It's been a very successful way of accelerating results when a bird flu pandemic was looming. In the face of increasing strains on agricultural systems aligning work in areas considered of particular importance is a cost-effective way to keep one step ahead of the problems.

Twinning of funded projects to achieve these beneficial effects was launched in 2009 after careful

preparation between the European Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology Research Programme under FP7 and the Argentinean Ministry of Research, Technology and Innovation with national and MERCOSUR research and innovation projects in mind. Ten projects (five from each side) were related to plant research, with focus on agronomical issues, including issues related to increasing tolerance to abiotic stress. Three out these ten were related to non-food uses of plant crops. Three projects were related to soil research. Finally, two projects (one from each side) were related to ensuring safety of food and feed chains, aiming at reduction and control of mycotoxin contamination in crops. Coordinators of these



projects have meanwhile started sharing materials, carrying out joint workshops, researchers exchange and other forms of focused cooperation. The practical implementation shows the potential for more such cost-effective cooperation with great mobilisation effects.

## BIOTECSUR - LINKING RESEARCH TO INNOVATION IN MERCOSUR

BIOTECSUR Biotechnology is the platform of the MERCOSUR, which mobilises and coordinates public and private actors for sustainable solution of problems of regional and global importance for Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. It arose from a technical cooperation project between the European Union and MERCOSUR (ALA/2005/017-350). The BIOTECSUR central platform serves the development of concrete actions of R &

D focused on sub-regional priorities. It has helped to develop a strategic plan and implements Studies on the state of affairs of biotechnology regulation in the sub-region, financing instruments for biotechnology companies and available capacities were conducted recently. Demand for biotechnology with a 15-year horizon was identified through participatory processes. All studies and information on projects are available on the

website. The first online inventory of biotechnology-related patents, registered in the patent offices of member countries and MERCOSUR holders residing in various international offices are also available. Every country has a project contact, the technical office is based in Buenos Aires. A study tour of BIOTECSUR in March 2010 explored links with European technology platforms and how to develop longer-term cooperation with Europe. [Http://www.biotecsur.org](http://www.biotecsur.org)



### @LIS II

The second phase of the @LIS Programme continues the promotion of the Information society and fighting the digital divide in Latin America. Adopted in October 2008, the @LIS II Programme has a budget of €31.25 millions of which €22 million (70.4%) are financed by the European Commission. The activities (in which all LA countries are involved) have been organised around three lines of action (“inclusive political dialogue and exchange of experience”; “ALICE2

- Latin America Interconnected with Europe” and “Regulatory Dialogues”) with as many projects to be implemented between 2009 and 2012.

Regarding research networks, CLARA (Cooperación Latino-Americana de Redes Avanzadas) has received 12 million EUR of EU funding (6 million co-financing) for the expansion and use of advanced research networks in Latin America and their interconnection with GÉANT2 (the high-speed pan-European research and education network).

The Programme will also support key strategic applications that use RedCLARA and promote joint projects and the use of the networks.

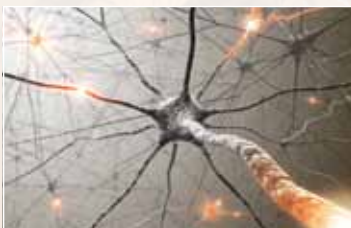


# COMOESTAS - Continuous Monitoring of Medication Overuse Headache in Europe and Latin America: Development and standardisation of an alert and decision support system

Medication Overuse Headache (MOH), a common condition and major cause of disability, results from chronicisation of primary forms of headaches, as a consequence of the progressive increase in the intake of symptomatic drugs. The first choice treatment for MOH is the withdrawal of the overused medication(s) (detoxification), which is preferentially done by hospitalizing the patients. Even if most patients improve as a result of detoxification, up to 45% of patients relapse, reverting to the overuse of symptomatic drugs. Paper diaries and calendars for recording headache attacks have long been used in the clinical practice for the management of headache patients.

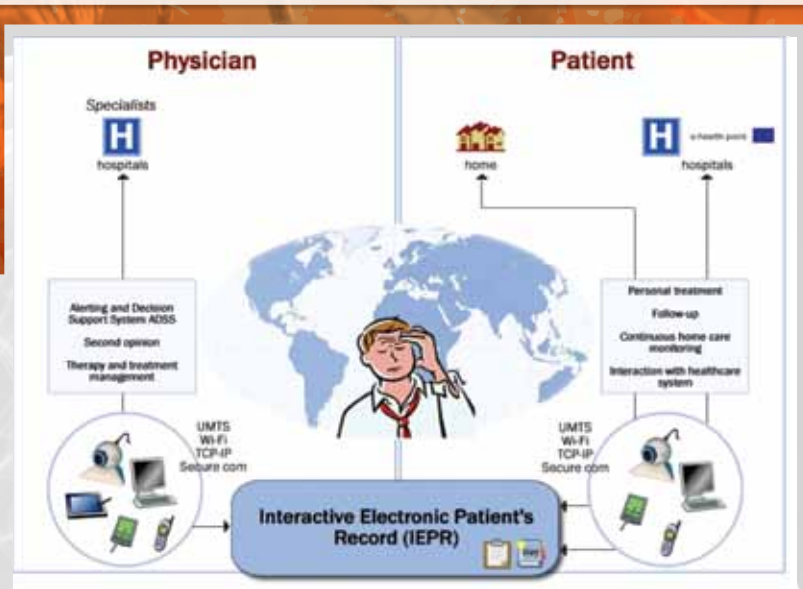
COMOESTAS aims to develop an innovative ICT system that allows patients with MOH to receive continuous and personalised treatment. The new system is based on an informative system called Interactive Electronic Patient Record (IEPR). The IEPR constitutes an “all-in-one” solution that follows patient’s treatment for as long as needed. The patient can insert periodically, into the electronic diary, all relevant clinical data, such as the use of drugs, the frequency and severity of attacks and further elements about treatment proceeding; the diary is accessible through standard Internet connection and a browser, without requiring any particular software on patient’s PC at home or smart phones. Filling in the electronic diary allows physicians to continuously monitor patient’s follow-up and to receive alerts and warnings should selected parameters exceed given thresholds. This is expected to improve relations between the patient and the physician. The system will also help control relevant events impacting on patient safety by optimising medical interventions, preventing errors, and reducing drug-induced side effects (i.e. gastritis, hypertension). As a consequence, direct (consultations, hospitalizations, etc.) and indirect (i.e. linked to the disability and complications caused by the disease) costs provoked by the condition will be reduced.

The project is in its second year and has released the basic IEPR platform, which is currently being tested in four languages, including Spanish. Technology transfer and training entailed a theoretical part (Training on e-learning standards, Learning Management platform using COMOESTAS e-learning platform) and a practical section through exercises such as a “test-case” preparation and presentation, Creation of a Web Based Training Course and upload on the e-learning platform. Culture-specificities have been analysed and are being incorporated. Several hundred patients are currently participating in clinical validation.



The project runs from 01/01/2008 to 30/06/2010 and receives an EU contribution of €1.6 million towards the total budget of €2.034.557. It is coordinated by Prof. Giuseppe Nappi of Fondazione Istituto Neurologico Casimiro Mondino in Pavia, Italy. The consortium mobilises 10 partners from Argentina, Chile, Denmark, Germany, Italy and Spain.

[www.comoestas-project.eu/](http://www.comoestas-project.eu/)



## EELA-2 - E-science grid facility for Europe and Latin America

### EELA-2 - E-science grid facility for Europe and Latin America

The EELA-2 Project aims at building, on the EELA e-Infrastructure, a high capacity, production-quality, scalable Grid Facility providing round-the-clock, worldwide access to distributed computing, storage and network resources for a wide spectrum of applications from European and Latin American scientific communities.

EELA-2 focuses on two goals: (i) to provide an empowered Grid Facility with versatile services fulfilling application requirements and (ii) to ensure the long-term sustainability of the e-Infrastructure beyond the term of the project.

It pursues the implementation by:

- Expanding the current EELA e-Infrastructure to 30 Resource Centres, mobilising 3000 computing nodes, 700 Terabytes of storage space at the beginning of the project that will further grow by 20 % in computing and 15 % in storage over the project lifetime;
- Providing, in collaboration with related projects (e.g. EGEE), the full set of Grid Services needed by all types of applications in their scientific environment;
- Supporting applications are selected against well defined criteria (including Grid added value, suitability for Grid deployment, outreach/potential impact) and can be of various types e.g. from classical offline data processing up to control and data acquisition of scientific instruments, in several fields such as Life Sciences, High Energy Physics, Earth Sciences, etc;
- Attracting new applications with the success stories of the early adopters;
- Collaborating with RedCLARA and National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) - NB: The RedCLARA Network interconnects the national advanced academic networks from Latin America among themselves and with networks in Europe (GÉANT2), the United States (Internet2), Asia (APAN) and the rest of the world;
- Supporting the ongoing creation of e-Science Initiatives and/or National Grid initiatives (NGI);
- Building the support of the e-Infrastructure to provide a complete set of Global Services from a Central Operation Centre, thus paving the way for the creation of Regional Operation Centres in Latin America;
- Making available knowledge of EELA-2 Grid Facility to all potential users, developers, and decision makers through an extensive Training and Dissemination programme;
- Creating knowledge repositories federated with the EGEE ones.

The project has provided networking, service and research activities. In particular, research and development has been conducted to increase the reach and the usability of e-Infrastructure by assembling/re-engineering existing technologies and developing new ones that facilitate the installation, management and use of the grid infrastructure. It has supported user communities in five (5) scientific domains, Bioinformatics, High Energy Physics, Earth Science, Engineering and Civil Protection, which had applications ported into the EELA-2 Grid Infrastructure.



EELA-2 ran from 01/04/2008 to 31/03/2010 and received an EU contribution of €5.1 million. The Project was coordinated by Prof. Bernard Marechal of the National Research Centre for Energy, Environment and Technology (CIEMAT) in Spain and mobilises 16 individual partners or Joint Research Units from 13 countries in Europe and Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, France, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Venezuela) and an international and EC research unit respectively.

[www.eu-eela.eu/](http://www.eu-eela.eu/)

# AUGERACCESS - Integrating Auger Observatory and European Research Institutions into a worldwide Grid - RI

Cosmic high energy particles hold secrets to the beginning of the Universe, because of the mystery of their enormous energies, so many millions of times greater than any earth-bound particle accelerator can create. The Auger Observatory was designed to study how these particles are produced and accelerated in the cosmos. Answering these questions is expected to shed light on the basic forces of nature. The rate of the most energetic cosmic rays striking the Earth surface is only  $\sim 1$  per km<sup>2</sup> per century and therefore achieving a breakthrough in this field is possible only by deploying sophisticated detectors with very large acceptance.

AUGERACCESS is a research infrastructure project dedicated to improving the access capabilities of European research groups working on the Pierre Auger Observatory. Located in a remote place in the Pampa Amarilla in Argentina, the Observatory is designed to measure the flux of ultra-high energy cosmic ray particles with unprecedented accuracy and statistical significance. It is the largest existing infrastructure in this research field. The upgrading of the connectivity between the Auger Observatory and European research institutions will allow rapid access to the data collected at the Observatory thus enhancing the potential of the European groups in data processing and analysis.

The realisation of a wide-band and reliable link between the Observatory and Europe has added value in the fields of atmospheric science, volcanology and seismic studies. These activities are carried out close to the site of the Observatory. Local communities in Argentina are also interested in better meeting certain social requirements thanks to the higher bandwidth becoming available for research.

The Auger Observatory has been originally developed by a large international effort, engaging over 300 scientists from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States of America. The total number of participating institutions is 72, of which 33 are in Europe. In addition to the European institutions, the US and Latin American research groups are also benefitting from improvements in the connectivity of the Auger Observatory. AUGERACCESS is open to collaboration with American institutions and organisations.

Focused on the advancement of Science in Europe, AUGERACCESS has been working with a number of other users potentially interested in the improvement and use of the communication infrastructure. The partners keep disseminating information on the results of the research and infrastructure activities in such a way that other research projects will be able to benefit from it.

The achievements of the project are being presented to a wide scientific community and to the general public by presentation at Conferences, in public reports and on the AUGERACCESS website.



The project spans from 01/11/2005 to 31/10/2011 and has an EU contribution of €1,1 million to an overall budget of €2.05 million. The consortium is coordinated by Prof. Giorgio Matthiae of INFN in Italy and mobilises partners from Argentina, France, Germany, Italy and the UK.

[www.augeraccess.net](http://www.augeraccess.net)

© Picture by  
Giorgio Matthiae, Auger Observatory

## FIRST - Implementing cooperation on Future Internet and ICT Components between Europe and Latin America

The concept of European Technology Platforms (ETPs) was introduced in Europe in 2005 as a way to bring together key European researchers and stakeholders, led by industry, with the aim of producing a long-term strategic plan for research and development on specific technologies with a significant economic and societal impact.

In the meantime, some 35 ETPs have been created in various fields. Even though these platforms are at different stages in their life-cycle, it is generally accepted that their results in terms of organization and promotion of R&D activities in Europe are remarkable. This is particularly true for the ETPs in the ICT field, where some have developed a tremendous effort in mobilizing European industry, setting up and implementing Strategic Research Agendas.

FIRST aims to further improving cooperation between European and Latin American enterprises and researchers focusing on the field of Future Internet, and builds on top of the success story of ETPs and previous efforts done in Latin America, bringing cooperation between Europe and Latin America in the ICT R&D field to a new level. The central goal of the project is to adapt the concept of ETPs to the Latin American Region, launching 5 Technology Platforms in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico, and once created these Latin American Technology Platforms (LATPs), continue supporting their initial activities such as the definition of their structure, governance rules, vision and strategic research agendas, as well as create links and active cooperation with correspondent European Technology Platforms.

LATPs can bring numerous benefits to the cooperation between Europe and Latin America, including the identification and mobilization of key stakeholders, the definition of counterparts for European Technology Platforms, the structuring of cooperation, as well as the prioritization of R&D challenges and the establishment of common R&D roadmaps for cooperation.

The project is in its first year, in which its main objectives are to complete an analysis of potential areas for cooperation in the field of Future Internet, identify stakeholders with high technological capacity in Latin America and set up Future Internet Latin American Technology Platforms in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico.



The project runs from January 2010 to December 2011 and has a budget of €849,850. It is coordinated by ROSE Vision Team of experts (Ing. Antonio Alfaro, Lic Tonny Velin, Dr. Julián Seseña) Spain. The consortium mobilises 9 partners from Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Mexico and Spain.

[www.latin-american-technology-platforms.eu](http://www.latin-american-technology-platforms.eu)

<http://www.lac-ictgateway.eu/index.html>



# PRO-IDEAL - Promoting the ICT Dialogue between Europe and Latin America

PRO-IDEAL is a support action of the ICT Programme of FP7, fostering the ICT collaboration between Europe and Latin America. Target countries are: Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay, with an extension (PRO-IDEAL PLUS) to Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Cuba. The aims of PRO-IDEAL are:

- to raise awareness of the ICT Programme among LA researchers;
- to identify common priorities in which to collaborate;
- to create tools and mechanisms that foster the participation of LA researchers in European ICT projects;
- to facilitate the participation of LA researchers, research institutions and companies in EU ICT projects;
- to support the ICT policy dialogue between the two regions.

In order to reach these goals, PRO-IDEAL implemented on- and off-line activities, and continues to do so. Local workshops held in the region (so far, in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Uruguay), familiarise local researcher with the ICT Programme, coaching modules convey information on EU projects and success factors, one-to-one meetings allow for individualised advice on project ideas. During the first year of PRO-IDEAL, 6 new partners were placed into 3 ICT projects, of which 2 were successful.

PRO-IDEAL's main emphasis is put on local capacity building as a step to sustainability. For this purpose, the European PRO-IDEAL team trains local "Project Angels" in on-line courses. These courses give an insight into the ICT Programme, explain funding mechanisms and give first-hand examples of partner profiling and project writing. Project Angels who follow the whole course will receive a diploma. The "Project Angel" training course is a good opportunity to add special knowledge to one's CV, which might be a competitive advantage in one's career. These courses are running throughout the project phase and are free of charge. A new set of courses starts in September 2010. For more details, see [www.pro-ideal.eu/project\\_angels](http://www.pro-ideal.eu/project_angels)

In order to make the ICT Programme more accessible, PRO-IDEAL created an "ICT Programme Wiki" that provides easy-to-understand information on the main challenges and objectives of the new ICT Work Programme 2011/12. Alphabetical keywords allow for a quick search, direct links to CORDIS facilitate access to information. The ICT Wiki is free for everybody interested in the ICT Programme: [www.pro-ideal.eu/wiki](http://www.pro-ideal.eu/wiki)



The project runs from 01/11/2009 to 31/12/2011, with a total EU contribution of about €1 million. The consortium is coordinated by Dr. Yolanda Ursa of Inmark, Spain, with Dr. Margaretha Mazura of EMF, the European ICT network of e-Excellence, as second European partner and in charge of "Project Angels" and the wiki. Latin American partners are from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico and Uruguay.

© Picture by EMF Brussels

[www.pro-ideal.eu](http://www.pro-ideal.eu)

# DIBANET - The production of sustainable Diesel-Miscible-Biofuels from the residues and wastes of Europe and Latin America

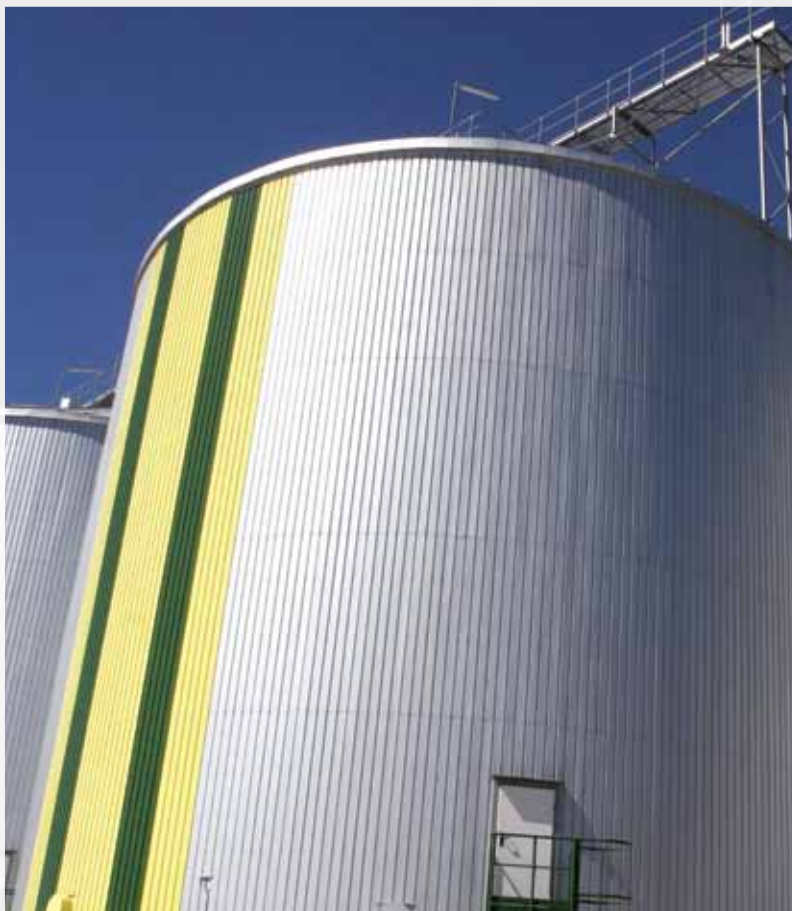
The increasing reliance on imported diesel fuels, in addition to annual increases in the quantities of organic wastes, are energy security as well as potential pollution threats to the EU and Latin America.

The DIBANET project will address these threats and help to reduce diesel imports by developing novel technologies that will allow the sustainable production of diesel miscible biofuels from wastes. The consortium will build on the key, complementary, strengths of researchers and industries of both regions to advance this field. This enhancement of co-operation will ensure that the whole process, from feedstock to process residues, is engineered for maximum efficiency.

The links between the European and Latin American regions will be further enhanced by the establishment of inter-regional student scholarships. Two large brokerage events to engage all stakeholders and a summer school for knowledge transfer are also planned.

DIBANET will increase the yield of levulinic acid from the acid hydrolysis of biomass, beyond the current state of the art. Levulinic acid is a valuable platform chemical that can be combined with ethanol to make a diesel fuel. The solid residues remaining after the acid-hydrolysis will be pyrolysed to produce bio-oil and biochar. The bio-oil will be upgraded to produce a diesel miscible biofuel. The biochar will be examined for use as a soil amender for enhanced biomass yields. Advanced analytical techniques to benefit levulinic acid yields will be developed and employed online to allow real-time adjustment of biomass conversion conditions. All of the fuels produced will be tested to ensure compliance with current fuel requirements.

The consortium will also develop an inter-regional Technology Transfer Business Plan for the most effective exploitation of the DIBANET technologies. This will consider the combined needs of the EU and Latin America and the potential for trade.



The project runs from 01/07/2009 to 31/12/2012 and receives an EU contribution of €3.73 million towards the total project cost of €4.84 million. The project is coordinated by Prof. Michael Hayes of the University of Limerick, Ireland. The consortium is composed of a total of 13 teams from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Ireland and the UK.

<http://www.dibanet.org/>

# INCOFISH - Reconciling multiple demands on coastal zones with emphasis on aquatic ecosystems and fisheries

Overfishing and competing demands through infrastructure development, transport, tourism and other activities place increasing pressures on coastal zones. With almost half of humanity estimated to live in broadly defined coastal zones, reconciling these multiple demands has become particularly relevant.

The INCOFISH consortium has evaluated and integrated data, tools and concepts suitable to contribute to the goals set by the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, such as restoring healthy fish stocks and ecosystems by 2015. From the Galapagos Islands and Mexico down to Uruguay, Latin American teams were part of the action. In the process, INCOFISH became one of the star-projects in FP6.

INCOFISH focused its research activities on the following Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) issues: it (a) documented historical performance of ecosystems to deal with the 'shifting baselines' syndrome and provide sound reference points for resource restoration; (b) provided electronic maps for all coastal species to establish authoritative species inventories and explore scenarios of global change and invasive species; (c) created spatial ecosystem models for all coastal systems treated in this project as a basis for better understanding the resource; (d) provided guidelines and tools for best sizing and placement of marine protected areas; (e) researched impacts of ecotourism on coastal ecosystem and provide best-practice guidelines; (f) identified suitable simple indicators to promote and monitor sustainable fisheries; (g) provided economic valuation of coastal ecosystem products and services and of different management regimes; (h) reviewed legal instruments for sustainable fishing in coastal zones; (i) revisited coastal transects as a tool for structuring and understanding multiple demands on coastal zones; (j) continues to provide an archive and web portal for easy, public access to all data and tools relevant for ICZM.

The tools and concepts resulting from INCOFISH research have been tested in real-world scenarios in selected coastal systems worldwide, including Latin America. Several knowledge products and services of the project linked e.g. to biodiversity and resource conservation have already been picked up outside academia, such as seafood guides accessible through mobile phones.

Among others, the Peruvian Marine Institute (IMARPE) launched its first fish ruler, the "Chikipez". It's all about not eating baby fish and enrol cooperation of all stakeholders in the industry to protect their livelihoods by taking better informed fishing and purchasing decisions. "Chikipez" fish rulers were adapted to different regions in the country.

The project ran from April 2005 to March 2008 with an EU contribution of €4.9 million. It was coordinated by Dr. Rainer Froese and Dr. Silvia Opitz of the IfM-GEOMAR/Leibniz Institute for Marine Sciences in Kiel, Germany. The consortium combined the expertise and experience of 35 teams from the following countries: Brazil, Chile, China, Columbia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, UK, Uruguay (teams from 8 LA countries).

[www.incofish.org](http://www.incofish.org) – see also [www.aquamaps.org](http://www.aquamaps.org)



## SWITCH - Managing water for the city of the future

Increasing global change pressures, escalating costs and other risks inherent to conventional urban water management are causing cities to face ever increasing difficulties in efficiently managing scarcer and less reliable water resources. Satisfying water uses, services and waste water disposal without creating environmental, social or economic damage is an ever more difficult challenge as well. SWITCH aims to bring about a paradigm shift in urban water management away from existing ad hoc solutions to urban water management and towards a more coherent and integrated approach. The vision of SWITCH is for sustainable urban water management in the 'City of the Future'.

There are several project objectives designed to achieve this aim and vision. Key to these is to ensure that long term strategies for sustainable urban water management are based on scientific knowledge. This will be achieved through a coordinated approach to research, training and demonstrations involving the SWITCH partners on a number of specific areas of interest in the project. These activities are further supported by effective dissemination, particularly through the Learning Alliance approach, and central coordination.

To deliver on this ambition, the SWITCH Consortium represents academics, urban planners, water utilities and consultants. This network of researchers and practitioners work directly with civil society through 'Learning Alliances' in ten global demonstration cities. These 'Learning Alliances' are platforms which bring city stakeholders, i.e. utilities, planners, non-governmental organisations, finance departments, etc., together with researchers. The purpose of including these demonstration cities is to translate the results of the SWITCH research activities into tangible, socially-relevant demonstration activities. During the project, feedback from the Learning Alliances is used to determine the scope of the demonstration activities. Other methods used to accelerate the sharing and adoption of more sustainable urban water solutions across different geographical, climatic and socio-cultural settings are research, training and knowledge sharing.

One case study: In Bogotá, the IDEA Institute, Universidad Nacional of Colombia, co-sponsored by COLCIENCIAS, is leading a research initiative focusing on the tanneries of Villapinzón in the upper basin of the Bogotá River, since river pollution is threatening water supplies of the Colombian capital with its 8 million inhabitants. As a result of the research and interaction with SWITCH, significant improvements in the discharges of these SMEs have been achieved. Other cities in Latin America included in the research were Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Cali (Colombia) and Lima (Peru).

Overall project results will include: 1) an inventory of the major global change pressures affecting urban water systems; 2) an overview of the strategic issues that urban water managers face now and in the future; 3) a description of uncertainty; 4) a strategic planning approach based on a Learning Alliance process and directed at creative visioning, scenario identification and strategy development; 5) a method to implement strategic urban water management plans via the government and non-government sectors; 6) sustainability indicators to measure the state of the urban water system, the results of which are to be used in strategic planning; 7) a decision support tool to evaluate the effect of various options for system sustainability; and 8) recommendations on the application of a number of innovative (technological) options in future urban water management schemes.

The project runs from 01/02/2006 to 31/01/2011 and receives an EU contribution of almost €14.75 million to the overall project budget of close to €22.9 million. This large consortium of 33 partners from 15 countries is coordinated by Dr. Kala Vairavamoorthy of UNESCO-IHE, Delft, Netherlands. The partners come from Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Israel, Netherlands, Palestinian-administered Territories, Peru, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

<http://switchurbanwater.lboro.ac.uk/>



# TWINLATIN - Twinning European and Latin-American River Basins for Research Enabling Sustainable Water Resources Management

About one-quarter of Latin America is covered by dry-lands including the Pacific coast, the dry plains of the Andean mountains, the arid region extending to Patagonia and the dry areas of Meso-America. Other sub-regions are abundantly endowed with water. Expanding agriculture, mining, industrial and urban developments put pressure on water resources in many places. This increases demand integrated water resources management (IWRM) and iterative approaches to understanding and allocating resources to different, sometimes competing activities while safeguarding essential ecosystem functions. Easier said than done!

The objective of TWINLATIN project was to fill gaps in knowledge and methods in order to enable implementation of a harmonised IWRM approach in Latin American river basins. It did so as a contribution to the EU Water Initiative using the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) as a guiding reference. An important focus was to enable and perform assessment of climate change effects on the hydrological regime, water availability and water quality of the seven river basins.

The project also addressed the improvement of water quality and availability for poor communities as a means to reduce poverty, enabling water authorities to propose actions that have been thoroughly analysed from all perspectives. Part of these analyses were also surface water availability, surface water quality, groundwater availability and quality, sustainability criteria as well as domestic, agricultural, industrial and hydropower stakeholder interests.

The pilot river basins in TWINLATIN were: The Baker River (Chile), the Catamayo-Chira River (Peru-Ecuador), the Cauca River (Colombia), Lago de Nicaragua (also called the Cocibolca Lake, Nicaragua), the Quaraí/Cuareim River (Uruguay-Brazil), the Thames River (UK) and the Norrström River (Sweden). The research and development work focused on the Latin American rivers, but research was also carried out for Norrström. The Thames River was used as a reference case.

TWINLATIN focused on solving problems and priorities identified at local and regional level and the development of decision making tools, which are necessary for a successful analysis of climate change. It looked at human development scenarios and the effects of measures and development of preliminary river basin management plans. For this the consortium proposed improved hydrological modelling and pollution pressure modelling, methods and results of impact of climate and societal change on water flow and pollution, as well as improved knowledge on the economics of water use and action cost-effectiveness. In this sense public participation and stakeholder involvement were key elements, assuring that the project activities focused on local priorities and help implementation. At the same time, the partners have been striving to create communication structures that can and will be utilised after the termination of the project.

The partners of the trans-boundary river basins in TWINLATIN, who included the managing authorities, have developed far-reaching strategies for assuring continued sustainable use of data and results after TWINLATIN. The Cuareim-Quaraí River Basin (Uruguay-Brazil) was selected as a successful example for Water Resources Management between the two countries. The Local Coordination Committees created years ago are now working in a co-ordinated way and in line with Federal and State policies in Brazil and Uruguay. The Catamayo-Chira basin (Ecuador-Peru) is another successful example of coordination and cooperation between countries. At the end of the project, the diversity of situation does not allow to draw easy generalisations. But the consortium not only leaves many useful publications, but new knowledge and human and institutional links that will play out in IWRM in years to come.

The project ran from 01/09/2005 to 31/12/2008 and had an EU contribution of €3.5 million. It was coordinated by Dr. Sam Ekstrand of the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute and mobilised 9 teams from Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador-Peru, Nicaragua, UK, Uruguay and Sweden.

[www.twinlatin.org](http://www.twinlatin.org)



## ECOST - Ecosystems, Societies, Consilience, and the Precautionary Principle: Development of an assessment method of the societal cost for best fishing practices and efficient public policies

This project aimed at assessing the true societal costs of fishing practices and fishery-linked policies in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. The project is to be seen from the wider perspective of equipping public decision-makers and society with the appropriate tools and methods needed to take into account not only immediate economic and social benefits, but also the costs engendered by fishing activities which relate as much to ecosystems as to societies. This is considered important for teasing out more robust solutions to the current fisheries crisis.

The consortium also emphasized dimensions, such as culture, that are not traditionally considered (due to the difficulty of attributing monetary values to such phenomena). The project looked at three types of ecosystems: coastal up-welling (case of West Africa), delta (case of South East Asia) and coral reefs (case of the Caribbean).

The consortium developed a new approach, based on the concept of societal cost, defined as all costs linked to fishing activities: these may be

- ecological (alteration of the natural capacity of a system to bounce back after disturbance, also called resilience);
- economic (all costs linked to production, management, subsidies, and external factors); and
- social (related to the costs of poverty, social injustice, gender discrimination, food security and food safety).

The rebuilding of marine ecosystems is a global concern. The Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 mandates it to the extent possible by 2015. The adoption of some form of valuation process is considered to be supportive of this process. In this spirit, three international policy days were devoted to assessing the progress made towards fulfilling the terms of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (Jpol). An EU-ACP Fishery Initiative Report contains the key conclusions of the JPol achievements. Results of questioning the values that people confer upon their surrounding natural environment, especially the sea and its shore, were published in a special issue of the renowned Social Science Information Journal, (Volume 46(1)2007), edited by Serge Collet. Four other ECOST special issues will be published in 2010. The first one looks at the application of the job satisfaction concept to fisheries in twelve countries (Journal of Social Indicator Research), while the second one focuses on the marine protected areas on all continents with an emphasis on the JPol targets (Environmental Management). The two others are regional special issues that show the contribution of the ECOST project to fisheries both at national and regional levels (Asian Fisheries Science Journal for Asia and the Revue Sénégalaise des Recherches Agricoles et Agro-alimentaires for West Africa) with a participation from key contributors who don't belong to the ECOST consortium. Another set of results on the Caribbean region is planned for a special issue of Ecological Economics for late 2010.

The project linked its research also with a solid network of other research and development projects and generated a steady flow of publications and reports, freely available on the website. Outreach activities are also underway in all regions, including the Caribbean, involving regional and UN organisations. Team members presented intermediate results in more than 40 international conferences and a similar number of workshops so far and have produced about 80 journal papers and book chapters, thus contributing to the on-going efforts for more sustainable fisheries.



The project runs from 01/11/2005 to 30/06/2010 and receives an EU contribution of €3.1 million. It is coordinated by Dr. Pierre Failler of the University of Portsmouth, UK. The consortium is made up of 22 teams from Belgium, Belize, China, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Italy, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mauritania, Netherlands, Senegal, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, UK and Vietnam. Moreover, the consortium had the support of key international and regional policy institutions – such as UN organisations and the OECD.

[www.ecostproject.org](http://www.ecostproject.org)

# VIAEJO - International Demonstrations of Platform for Transport Planning and Travel Information

In today's interconnected and mobile world, the logistics of efficient and cost-effective travel are acquiring particular importance. Travel of people and goods within (and between) the metropolitan cities of the world is a human, environmental and economic factor to reckon with.

The VIAEJO project will design, demonstrate and validate an open platform which will facilitate data sharing and exchange from different sources and provide data processing and management to support a variety of services for traffic management within big cities. The project will integrate the open platform with local components and demonstrate its applications in four cities: Athens, São Paulo, Beijing and Shanghai. The demonstration of the open platform will be particularly challenging in São Paulo. This megacity is the largest and richest city in Brazil, and the world's 7th largest metropolitan area with more than 11 millions inhabitants and over 7 million vehicles, resulting in congestion, accidents and air pollution which threaten the sustainability of the metropolis.

The open platform will benefit travellers, transport planners and transport system operators and managers. The open platform will be able to support cross-modal journey planning. That means, change of transport mode, e.g. from walking, changing from road to train, bus or metro will be included in the seamless traveller information service. Data exchange between operators will lead to a better optimized operation of all systems and individual operation strategies can be harmonized by the data exchanges and information sharing. The platform will enable all data and information used for real-time operation to be used for transport planning. Transport planners will have access to traffic data and information on traffic management strategies. Such information will help build up a more detailed and comprehensive historical database for transport modelling development and long term policy evaluation. Historical data are important to establish baselines and better understand the evolving nature of human mobility, changing preferences and prepare better for the future. A lot of factors need to be considered and relevant information collected, validated and inserted into the service platform. Research thus entails, among others:

- Gathering information on the current status and planned developments for traffic and transport data, identifying the requirements of local transport planners and authorities for overall traffic and transport planning and management, specifying the needs of end users for personalised redelivery of traffic information.
- Developing the architecture of the common platform, consisting of design of the common functionalities of the platform, definition of the interfaces for distribution of information and development of recommendation for implementation of the platform for each demo city.
- Designing and implementing the open platform to each of the demo cities.
- Validation and impact assessment. The validation focuses on the assessment of the social and environmental impacts of the project.

This specific international cooperation action (SICA) runs from 01/09/2009 to 31/08/2012 and has an EU contribution of €3.6 million for a total cost of €5.9 million. The consortium is coordinated by Dr Yanying Li of ERTICO – ITS Europe and mobilises 21 industrial and academic participants from Belgium, Brazil, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, and Italy. Two Brazilian participants bring well-known expertise for local traffic planning to the group.

[www.viajeo.eu/](http://www.viajeo.eu/)



# ENABLE - Stimulate Sustainable Freight Transport Systems with Latin American countries

Europe is the second largest trading partner for Latin American countries. Bilateral trade amounts around €175 billion annually. Much of the exports from Latin America are bulk (minerals and vegetable products, prepared foodstuff, as well as base metals accounting in 2008 for 65% of the total export value), though the freight transport needs keep diversifying. They also grow in quantity and require modernisation of the logistics to cope with changing demands and the need for more environmentally friendly solutions.

The primary aim of the coordination and support project ENABLE is to strengthen relations of the EU with Latin American countries, specifically Argentina and Brazil, in the area of co-modal and intermodal freight transport with particular emphasis on sustainable freight transport systems.

In order to achieve this objective, the ENABLE consortium gathers and digests information in order to compare experiences, ponder options and strengthen the decision-making basis for policies and investments. In particular, the consortium

- works on inventories and surveys to obtain a sound picture of the situation of intermodal freight transport in Latin America;
- assesses state-of-the-art reviews in Europe that will allow the identification of strengths and innovations of the European freight transport industry and research;
- develops concrete roadmaps to facilitate the effective transfer/adaptation of the most suitable innovations to the target areas in Latin America.

Special attention will be paid to networking and partnership building actions that will strengthen the dialogue between Europe and Latin America and foster international cooperation between the two regions. A stakeholder's forum is also being established in Latin America to facilitate a productive merging of diverse experiences on both sides of the Atlantic. Furthermore, Forum sessions, conferences and other dissemination actions will contribute to the visibility of the project's results and engage the stakeholders of both parts in a fruitful dialogue.

The usefulness of ENABLE and its forum where present and future is being discussed is particularly striking in view of the growing inter-continental transport and trade on the one hand and the logistics "e-revolution" taking place in the world on the other hand. ENABLE allows analysing differences in business practices but also different political and regulatory as well as infrastructural issues which need to be addressed to facilitate intermodal transport between the regions.

The project consortium comprises complementary partners that cover all disciplines necessary for the successful implementation of the work plan. The two Latin American partners have a deep knowledge

about the intermodal freight transport activities in their respective countries and the greater region, and are playing an important role in the knowledge transfer and adaptation activities. The European partners are three of the most active organisations in the continent's freight transport activities. The consortium will be further assisted by the European Intermodal Association (EIA) by engaging its extensive know-how in European innovations as well as its members' expertise and contacts in the Latin American intermodal transport society.

The project runs from 01/09/2009 to 31/08/2011 and has an EU contribution of €500,000 shared equitably among the five partners. The consortium is coordinated by Dr. Yannis Tyrinopoulos of the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas – Hellenic Institute of Transport in Greece. Other project partners are from Argentina, Brazil, Finland and Spain, with the EIA as associated partner.

[www.enable-project.net/](http://www.enable-project.net/)





## **EULARSUR** - Network in Advanced Materials and Nanomaterials of industrial interest between Europe and Latin American Countries of MERCOSUR (Argentina-Brazil-Uruguay)

The main objective of EULASUR Coordination Action is to create a cooperation platform for forming strategic partnerships between scientists, scientific managers, policy makers, technology transfer and industrial experts in the European Community and three Latin-American (LA) countries belonging to MERCOSUR: Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina (BRAU).

The concept of this project is to focus on developing research links with leading universities, institutes and industrial companies in these three southern LA countries, which are expected to considerably increase their research activities in materials over the next few years. Until now, there has been no specific cooperation in material science and technology between the EU and the BRAU countries, so EULASUR will establish the basis for joint participation of partners from EU and BRAU in future calls of the FP7 Cooperation Work Programmes dedicated to Nanoscience, Nanomaterials and Industrial Processes (NMP). In the global science context of this dynamically developing area, Europe wishes to engage with BRAU in certain research areas, sharing common objectives in science and technology as privileged partners and cooperate to develop critical mass of academic and industrial researchers as it is being done with other geo-strategic areas (China, India, Korea, etc).

EULASUR focuses on identifying collaborative topics and themes within the specific fields of:

- Advanced functional ceramics and
- Hybrid materials and nano-materials, where it is believed that significant opportunities exist for synergistic and mutually beneficial joint research between the two regions.

The core activities of EULASUR are based on some European and BRAU Groups of Excellence already cooperating on a one-to-one basis. The Coordination Action will strengthen the links between them and create new ones in order to generate a stable scientific platform of international excellence to collaborate in the development of materials science research in specific topics of interest for both regions. While not supporting research as such, the project enables partners to meet regularly, know each other's relative strengths much better and prepare the ground for future collaborative research particularly in materials and nano-materials as well as common use of existing research resources and access to the Large Infrastructures for research exchanges and training. Last but not least, it is expected that the project will pave the way for cooperation of companies from both sides, both in research and on a commercial basis.

The project runs from 01/09/2009 to 31/07/2012 and receives an EU contribution of almost €1 million. The coordinator is Prof. Carles Miravittles from ICMAB-Institut de Ciència de Materials de Barcelona, Spain. The consortium is made up of 14 partners from the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK and Uruguay.

[www.icmab.es/eulasur/](http://www.icmab.es/eulasur/)



# NECOBELAC - Network of Collaboration between Europe and Latin America-Caribbean Countries

NECOBELAC is an FP7 project in the area of Science in Society to improve the production and dissemination of scientific information in public health, by spreading knowledge in scientific writing and open access publishing.

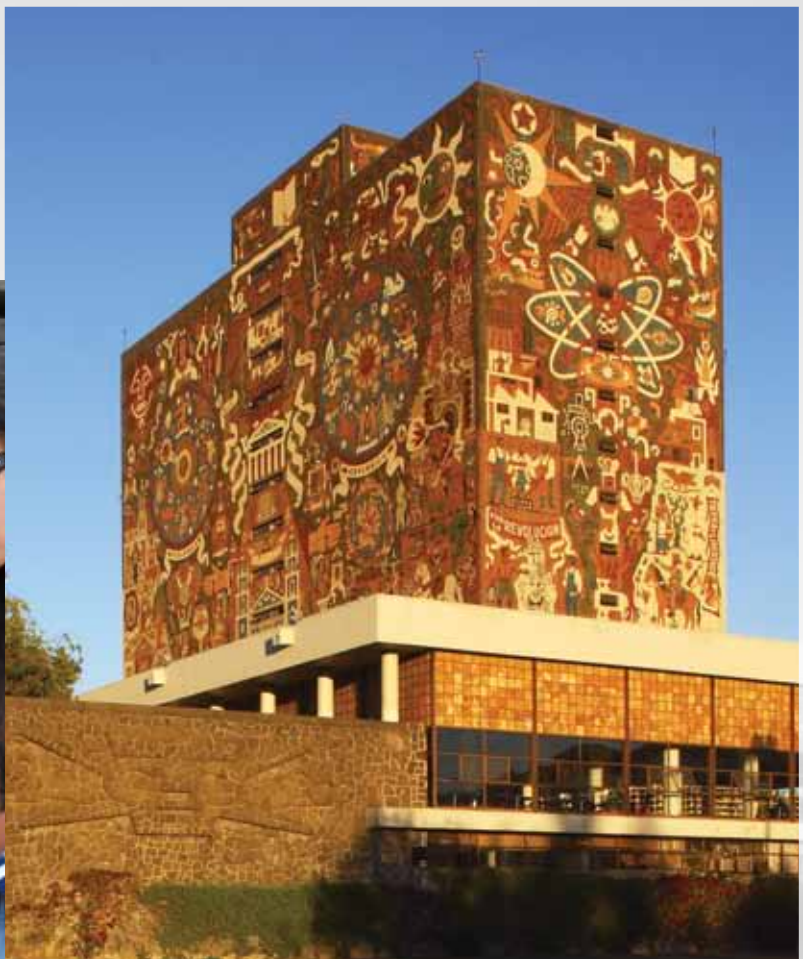
It works through building up stronger collaborative networks between European countries (EU) and countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), to spread knowledge on the methods of scientific writing and publishing and on appropriate tools for the open access dissemination of information for the protection of public health. In this context, confronting different experiences and seeking the most effective forms of capacity building and practice, it is expected to bring about cultural change among project partners and other interested parties and not just establish an infrastructure for two-way exchange (EU-LAC / LAC-EU) of health information for both researchers and other stakeholders.

The first practical steps can be seen already on the website through, among others, the development of a wiki with training tools and guidelines. It also addresses technical and ethical issues associated with publication in the public domain and participates actively in international fora and conferences to increase awareness and disseminate its work. Setting up structures which will survive beyond the duration of the project itself is a major concern of the consortium.

Another major part of its work is geared at reaching out to health-related institutions in Latin American and Caribbean countries, building up a cross-national advocacy infrastructure for public health and carrying out an impact assessment at the end so as to create a useful legacy for future work. All work carried out by the consortium is in four languages: English, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

The project runs from 01/02/2009 to 31/01/2012. It receives an EU contribution of €800,000. NECOBELAC is co-ordinated by Prof. Paola De Castro of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Italy. It mobilises partners from Brazil, Colombia, Portugal, Spain and the UK.

[www.necobelac.eu](http://www.necobelac.eu)



# EULAKS - Connecting Socio-Economic Research on the Dynamics of the Knowledge Society in the European Union and Latin American and Caribbean Countries

The EULAKS project is premised on the assumption that by providing in-depth insights into socio-economic and policy development processes of other regions, the Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) can make a valuable contribution to meeting the EU's ambitious challenges as set out by the Lisbon and Gothenburg Summits, particularly in the context of the opening of the European Research Area (ERA) to third countries and regions.

The project is aimed at raising the profile of SSH research activities and networks in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries in order to make sure that the ERA can fully benefit from key contributions that substantially improve the understanding of the changing socio-economic dynamics of the Information and Knowledge Society in both regions.

A principal goal of the project is the creation of a space for horizontal learning between communities of SSH scholars and communities of relevant stakeholders and policy-makers. To attain this goal, the project connects European and Latin American and Caribbean communities of scholars, research organisations and key agencies from a broad range of SSH disciplines that vary in their research focus and methodological preferences, yet have made significant contributions to the building of a shared understanding of the Knowledge Society.

EULAKS attaches priority to the promotion of the shared EU-LAC Knowledge Area through the support for the forging of close bi-regional ties between SSH research communities with a focus on supporting the design, implementation and monitoring of science, technology and innovation (STI) policies more effectively.

It has already produced a number of comparative analyses e.g. in relation to information and communication technologies, technology transfer and biotechnology. Presentations produced for the 2009 summer school in Mexico City, Mexico, are publicly available on the project website. A major conference is scheduled for June 2010 in Manchester, UK.

The project runs from 01/02/2008 to 31/08/2010 and receives an EU contribution of €694,094. It is coordinated by Dr. Dirk Johann of the Zentrum für Soziale Innovation (ZSI), Austria. EULAKS mobilises seven partners from the following countries: Argentina, Austria, France, Mexico, UK and Uruguay.

[www.eulaks.eu](http://www.eulaks.eu)



# MARIE CURIE ACTIONS



The EU's Marie Curie Actions fund various kinds of training, career development and worldwide mobility opportunities for researchers, in all research fields. The total budget is €4.75 billion for the period 2007-2013 (7th Framework Programme). About 50.000 researchers will benefit from these actions in FP7.

## Mobility of experienced researchers between the rest of the World and Europe:

Top-class researchers from all non European countries are welcome to work on projects in Europe to help to develop research cooperation between Europe and other parts of the world. International Incoming Fellowships (IIFs) are a Marie Curie Action specially designed to encourage these moves. About 1,200 grants will be funded from 2007 to 2013.

Since 2007, already 30 researchers from LAC countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and Uruguay) have benefited from this action in diverse research fields, from health and ageing to transport. Similarly, there are opportunities for European researchers to move to any country worldwide to further enhance their career development.

## Exchanging Staff:

The Marie Curie International Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES) helps research organisations to set up or strengthen long-term cooperation with others, through a coordinated exchange programme for their research staff. Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico are the LAC countries eligible to apply in collaboration with at least two European Union Member States or Associated Countries. About 10 to 15,000 researchers from all countries worldwide could benefit from this exchange scheme in FP7.

## Early stage research training:

The Marie Curie Initial Training Networks offer early-stage researchers (mainly at PhD level) the opportunity to improve their research skills, join established research teams and enhance their career prospects in both public and private sectors. Organisations from all countries worldwide are eligible to apply. About 10,000 researchers from all countries worldwide can benefit from this exchange scheme in FP7.

## Public-private cooperation:

The Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP) action aims to boost skills exchange between the commercial and non-commercial sectors. Universities and companies from all countries worldwide are eligible to apply. About 5,500 researchers from all countries including non European ones can benefit from this action in FP7.



## PEOPLE PROGRAMME - MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

Topics within the focus	Funding instrument	Type of targeting or interest
World Fellowships-International Incoming Fellowships (IIF)	Support for training and career development of researchers. 2011 Call Budget: 40 M€	Researchers from all non European (EU member states and associated states) countries are eligible to apply.
World Fellowships-International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)	Support for training and career development of researchers. 2011 Call Budget: 30 M€	Organisations or research teams from all Countries with whom the EU has an S&T agreement, as well as those covered by the EU neighbourhood policy, are eligible to participate. Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico are part of these countries.
Initial Training of Researchers (ITN)	Support for training and career development of researchers. 2011 Call Budget: ~318 M€	Organisations and researchers from all countries worldwide are eligible to apply.
Industry Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP)	Support for training and career development of researchers. 2011 Call Budget: 80 M€	Organisations and researchers from all countries worldwide are eligible to apply.

## GLOBAL EARTH OBSERVATION - LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

A significant number of countries of the Latin America - Caribbean region are full members of GEO: Argentina, The Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. They are part of the Americas' caucus which include South-America and North America. They are currently represented in the GEO Executive Committee by Brazil and Chile.

Brazil as one of the 81 full member countries in GEO plays an important role in South America by making available resources for the development of GEOSS. Brazil fulfils the responsibilities as Co-chair of the Capacity Building Committee (CB), in good collaboration with the European Commission, which is another co-chair. The CB supports GEO in strengthening the capability of all countries, in particular developing countries, to use Earth observation data and products in a sustainable manner

and to contribute observations and systems to GEO System of Systems (GEOSS). Examples of current actions involving GEO and Latin America and Caribbean are:

1) DevCoCast project under the FP7 Cooperation Environment Theme

DevCoCast contributes to overcoming existing telecommunication limitations by providing reliable access to vital environmental information to developing countries which are exposed to serious environmental risks. Brazil and Argentina provide data and services in this context. Brazil and China release data free of charge to all interested African countries inside the footprints of their receiving antennas.

2) Global Carbon Observation System under FP7 Cooperation Environment Theme

A future FP7 call would include research on the integration and optimisation of information

for building a Global Carbon Observing System, important for climate research and forestry research, among others. Forest carbon monitoring actions and partners from South America must be included in a balanced way with the rest of the consortium, in particular to contribute filling the gap for in-situ data in those critical tropical high carbon productivity areas.

3) Natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean

A GEO Haiti Event Supersite is online. Following the earthquake on 12 January 2010, Earth observation data, maps and much more have been made available at <http://supersites.unavco.org/haiti.php>

A GEO Chile Event Supersite is now online. The GEO community has responded to the 27 February earthquake off the coast of Chile by providing Earth observation data and information products. <http://supersites.unavco.org/chile.php>





European Commission

**Towards the EU-LAC Knowledge Area - *Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union for Sustainable Development and Social Inclusion***

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

2010 — 36 pp. — 17,6 x 25,0 cm

ISBN 978-92-79-15624-3  
doi 10.2777/23024

## How to obtain EU publications

### Publications for sale:

- via EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>);
- from your bookseller by quoting the title, publisher and/or ISBN number;
- by contacting one of our sales agents directly. You can obtain their contact details on the Internet (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>) or by sending a fax to +352 2929-42758.

### Free publications:

- via EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>);
- at the European Commission's representations or delegations. You can obtain their contact details on the Internet (<http://ec.europa.eu>) or by sending a fax to +352 2929-42758.

Climate change, demographic transitions, expectations for better health and greener and more inclusive economies are among the drivers for more scientific and technological cooperation and innovation. The Guadalajara Summit in 2004 therefore placed the development of an EU-Latin America-Caribbean Knowledge Area on the political agenda of bi-regional relations. In 2010, this concept gains fresh momentum through the endorsement of a new Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation. The selection of concrete research collaborations, mostly from the 6th and 7th Research Framework Programmes included here, can only cover a small part of the wide thematic range of joint activities addressing problems and opportunities of mutual interest. These projects mobilise teams from across Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and other continents as well. They are either still on-going or recently completed. New collaborations will come on-stream in 2010, 2011 and beyond to turn declarations into practice. They represent a sizeable potential for innovation in the direction of sustainable development and social inclusion, the focus of the 2010 EU-LAC Summit in Madrid.

For more information:

Information on the 7th Research Framework Programme (2007-2013):  
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7>

International scientific and technological cooperation policy and action by the EU:  
[www.ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index\\_en.html](http://www.ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index_en.html)

Different areas of research:  
[www.ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=who&cat=a&tips=on](http://www.ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=who&cat=a&tips=on)

External Relations and Foreign Affairs policies:  
[www.ec.europa.eu/policies/external\\_relations\\_foreign\\_affairs\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/policies/external_relations_foreign_affairs_en.htm)

International development cooperation:  
[www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm)

