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GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific and Technological
Cooperation on socio-economic and
environmental challenges between
Latin America, the Caribbean
and the European Union.



Scientific cooperation on socio-economic and environmental challenges between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union

Today most leaders recognise the critical role of knowledge in marshalling solutions to increasingly complex challenges to our societies. Entire economies are judged by the investment they make into education, science, technology and innovation. Knowledge is indeed critical for turning these challenges into opportunities for more sustainable development. The 1999 Rio Summit of Heads of State and Government of Latin American, Caribbean and European countries therefore placed scientific and technological cooperation firmly on the agenda for bi-regional cooperation. Since the Madrid Summit in 2002, leaders have been promoting the development of an EU-LAC Knowledge Area for solving societal problems and creating new opportunities.

European, Latin American and Caribbean sensitivities towards environment problems can be different because of diverse circumstances and historical trajectories. However, there is much agreement, not only on shared cultural values and economic interests, but also in the identification of issues of common interest. All countries in both regions have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, endorsed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals. The EU Water Initiative has a regional Latin America Component with a number of relevant research and development projects under its belt and several bi-regional workshops have refined priority issues for research cooperation in the specific socio-economic context of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Four countries have a Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement with the European Union (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico); three sub-regional groupings negotiate association agreements: Central America, the Andean Community and MERCOSUR. Chile and Mexico are already associated to the European Union. Cooperation uses instruments from several policy areas, including external relations, trade, technical and economic cooperation and scientific cooperation.

Environmental policy dialogue at bi-regional level is still in its infancy, but it can draw on a growing number of bi-regional research collaborations. In the 6th Research Framework Programme (FP6: 2002-2006) alone, some 221 collaborative scientific projects mobilised 538 teams from Latin America (529) and the Caribbean (9) and 2,679 European (and other non-Latin American) teams with a total value of more than €1.3 billion (EC contribution more than €700 million). Conservatively defined, 69 of these projects addressed environmental topics directly, without including transport or agricultural projects with strong environmental components. Twenty one of these projects integrated social and economic concerns strongly into their research agenda, thus addressing some of the topics forming the basis of dialogue at the level of the Lima Summit between Heads of State and Government from the EU-LAC regions. Eight projects with Latin American and/or Caribbean participants were exclusively dedicated to social, ethical and related issues. The small sample of concrete collaborations is constituted mostly by FP6 projects.

Under the 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7: 2007-2013) international cooperation is intended to be more substantial, better coordinated and integrated by opening all its components to international cooperation and a high percentage of research opportunities are directly relevant for improved transitions towards sustainable development and a better grasp of the socio-economic conditions for change. It also creates an enabling framework for such cooperation

through measures on scientific and technological policy dialogue, promotion and activities to improve coordination of international S&T cooperation of EU Member States. The thematic programmes on socio-economic sciences and humanities and Science in Society also favour such cooperation on economic strategies, sustainable development, political and social issues that are of relevance to both regions. Initial results from the first year show a good showing of some of the Latin American countries. Particularly the success rates point to the excellent quality of proposals and choice of partners on both sides.

Taken together also with bilateral initiatives of EU Member States as well as such well-established scientific cooperation mechanisms as CYTED (Programa Iberoamericano de Ciencia y Tecnología para el Desarrollo), these activities illustrate that the policy objective of gradually building up a EU-LAC Knowledge Area is taking shape through practical follow-up to the orientations of earlier summits.

These science and innovation-oriented activities 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 entitled “Investing in people”. Recently, Erasmus Mundus scholarship programmes with external windows for Latin American countries have been added to the ‘toolkit’ in recognition of the central role of people and knowledge to the cooperation.



CLARIS – A Europe-South America Network for climate change assessment and impact studies

The objective of this network was to strengthen collaboration between European and South American teams in order to develop common research strategies on climate change and impact issues in the subtropical region of South America through multi-scale integrated approaches (continental-regional-local). The project focused particularly on La Plata Basin and favoured the transfer and adaptation of knowledge and expertise on Earth System Models and their different components and coupling procedures. It allowed European and South American teams involved in regional climate modelling in South America to compare and exchange their methodologies.

They started to set up a high-quality daily climate database for temperature and precipitation, which is believed to be of great value to validate and further evaluate the capabilities of the European Climate Assessment Project in simulating climate trends and frequency changes of extreme events. Extreme events are of particular interest to South America, given the effects of the El Niño Southern Oscillation on the continent. Thanks to three pilot activities the feasibility and potential of using climate information for decision making has been explored in relation to three major areas of interest: agriculture, health and pollution. The more intense communication and researcher exchange enabled through the CLARIS project was useful to make progress on identifying the most promising research strategies. It also helped to strengthen links to public and private organisations in the three thematic areas which need advice about climate variability to design or adapt their management and investment strategies in vulnerable regions.



The CLARIS project ran from 1/9/2004 to 30/8/2007 and was coordinated by Dr. Jean Philippe Boulanger of CNRS in France. A total of 14 teams from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands and Uruguay participated.
www.claris-eu.org/

SENSOR – Climate variability and El Niño Southern Oscillation: Implications for natural coastal resources and management

Marine biodiversity and heavy pressure on marine resources are strongly influenced by the ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation) climatic variability. It affects particularly aquatic and land habitats along the Pacific coast of Chile and Peru and the upwelling system of the Humboldt Current. Both phases, the warm phase (El Niño) and the cold phase (La Niña) have far-reaching effects on the ecology, socio-economic conditions and infrastructures in Chile and Peru.

The local traditional fisheries represent principal activities for the local economies in both countries. Despite large numbers of studies of the El Niño phenomenon, the underlying mechanisms and processes responsible for these effects have not yet been analysed. Traditional fisheries and invertebrates and fishes in coastal and brackish areas suffer significantly from El Niño periods. Both phases have also positive effects, which local fishermen and coastal communities have not so far taken full advantage of.

The SENSOR project works on the use of data that can help better understand El Niño and La Niña effects on coastal ecosystems and their resources. Early results have already been published and also shared with communities in coastal areas. The researchers are hopeful that the new knowledge is useful for reconciling social and economic interests in the countries concerned with environmental conditions. To this effect, they are, among others, also making databases and publications available in the public domain.



The project runs from 01/10/2004 to 30/09/2008 and is coordinated by Dr. Sven Thatje with double affiliation: Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (AWI), Bremerhaven (Germany) and National Oceanographic Centre of the University of Southampton in the UK. The 14 collaborating teams are from Argentina, Chile, France, Germany, Peru, Spain and the UK.
www.censor.name

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

INCOFISH conducts specifically targeted strategic research towards reconciling multiple demands on coastal zones. It 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.

INCOFISH focused its research activities on the following Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) issues: (a) document historical performance of ecosystems to deal with the 'shifting baselines' syndrome and provide sound reference points for resource restoration; (b) provide electronic maps for all coastal species to establish authoritative species inventories and explore scenarios of global change and invasive species; (c) create spatial ecosystem models for all coastal systems treated in this project as a basis for better understanding the resource; (d) provide guidelines and tools for best sizing and placement of marine protected areas; (e) research impacts of ecotourism on coastal ecosystem and provide best-practice guidelines; (e) identify suitable simple indicators to promote and monitor sustainable fisheries; (f) provide valuation of coastal ecosystem products and services and of different management regimes; (g) review legal instruments for sustainable fishing in coastal zones; (h) revisit coastal transects as a tool for structuring and understanding multiple demands on coastal zones; (i) 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. Together they form a package with the potential to contribute to solving societal problems in coastal zones in Europe and partner regions. 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 babies and enroll cooperation of all stakeholders in the industry to protect their livelihoods by taking better informed fishing and purchasing decisions. "Chikipez" fish rulers are adapted to different regions in the country.



The project ran from 01/05/2005 to 30/04/2008 and was coordinated by Dr. Rainer Froese and Dr. Silvia Opitz of the 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

ALARM - Assessing LArge-scale environmental Risks for biodiversity with tested Methods - Risk Assessment for Biodiversity: from Europe to the Globe

Based on a better understanding of terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, ALARM develops and tests methods and protocols for the assessment of large-scale environmental risks in order to minimise negative direct and indirect human impacts. The research focuses on assessment and forecast of changes in biodiversity and in structure, function, and dynamics of ecosystems. This relates to ecosystem services and includes the relationship between society, economy and biodiversity. In particular, risks are assessed arising from climate change, environmental chemicals, biological invasions and pollinator loss in the context of current and future land use patterns in Europe and elsewhere in the world. Case studies shed light on the environmental risks subsequent to each of these impacts. This yields an improved understanding on how these impacts act individually and affect living systems. The knowledge on how they act in concert is poor, but ALARM can be seen as/is the first research initiative with the critical mass needed to deal with such aspects of combined impacts and their consequences.

Particular attention is paid to making research results usable in stakeholder argumentation and negotiation situations through a specifically designed part of the website. This is a potentially powerful way to enable citizens to use research results in shaping dialogue among different interest groups and also get a better understanding of attitudes and interests of others.



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The ALARM project is running from 01/02/2004 to 31/01/2009 and coordinated by Prof. Josef Settele of the Helmholtz-Centre UFZ — Centre for Environmental Research in Halle, Germany. It combines the expertise of 68 partners from 35 countries: 21 EU Member States with Belarus, China, India, Israel, Russia, Serbia, South-Africa, Switzerland, The Philippines, Ukraine and four Latin American partners respectively from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Guatemala.
www.alarmproject.net

CEECEC – Civil Society Organisations' Engagement with Ecological Economics

Ecological economics (EE) and, in general, sustainability sciences make important contributions to the analyses of sustainability policies in Europe and worldwide. EE develops physical indicators and indices, provides economic valuation of environmental services and negative externalities, applies tools of multi-criteria evaluation to resource use, and promotes environmental policy instruments such as eco-taxes and marketable permits.

To provide policy makers with high quality, relevant research, increased collaboration between ecological economists and civil society organisations (CSOs) is needed. Many CSOs already have a large stock of environmental knowledge but need increased capacity in EE to give an analytical foundation to activism and policy making. The social and disciplinary divide between CSO and academic research poses significant challenges. At the same time, there are real-world demands from CSOs for knowledge of EE – for instance, to assess the liability of companies in oil extraction conflicts, to evaluate plans for palm oil plantations for bio-fuel exports, or to establish alternative energy plans at the regional level.

This project addresses CSO capacity building in EE through a number of coordinated activities. The focus is not on theory but on case study learning. Joint working groups will identify and report on key issues for research in water management, mining, energy, forestry and agriculture, based on CSO needs and interests. Possible issues for case studies in Latin America might relate to oil extraction, bio-fuels production and tree plantations. Previous cooperative research activities will be reviewed and assessed in terms of their effectiveness in meeting CSO needs, and documented and disseminated.

A CSO friendly ecological economics toolkit will be developed as well as an interactive online EE course for CSOs and the general public. In addition, options for future research cooperation will be explored in order to apply EE methods, tools and indicators to CSO work.



The CEECEC project runs from 01/04/2008 to 30/09/2010. It is coordinated by Prof. Martinez Alier of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain. It involves as partners universities, research centres and civil society organisations. A total of 14 teams from Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Croatia, Ecuador, India, Italy, Portugal, Serbia and Spain are taking part.

CAMINAR – Catchment management and mining impacts in arid and semi-arid South America

More than 25% of South America is arid or semi-arid. Difficulties in water management systems hinder the sustenance / recovery of ecosystems and human communities in these fragile areas. The twin scourges of erosion and salinisation are exacerbated by some human activities. Mining has the highest environmental impact, yet it contributes more to legal export earnings in the region than any other sector. A rigorous review of the effectiveness of existing policies could help developing new approaches to river-basin management so that such vital economic activity can be carried out in a more sustainable manner.

CAMINAR aims at contributing to the establishment of policy options, management strategies and technologies for the sustainable management of ecosystems in those river basins of arid and semi-arid South America, which are impacted from mining. Peru, Bolivia and Chile are demonstration countries for realising the following objectives: (a) establish forums for dialogue on the ecological and water resources impacts of mining ; (b) critically evaluate the effectiveness of existing regulatory strategies for mining through studies of selected river-basins; (c) develop guidelines for integrated water resources and ecosystem management with particular emphasis on mining impacts; (d) develop decision support tools to facilitate participatory water management planning; and (e) derive a set of principles for future policy development and implementation. .



The project runs from 01/02/2007 to 31/01/2010 and is coordinated by Dr. Jaime Amezaga from Newcastle University, UK. The nine teams joining their forces come from Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Portugal, Spain and the UK.
www.ncl.ac.uk/environment/research/hero/CAMINAR.htm

CASES - Cost assessment for sustainable energy systems

With prices of fossil energy soaring in the face of continued very strong growth of demand, the former approach to increase supplies in line or ahead of demand needs to be revisited. In addition to revisiting the energy mix, questions of increasing energy efficiency gain importance. Cost will be an important criterion for devising the sustainable energy systems of the future. This Co-ordination Action has three principal objectives: (1) To compile detailed estimates of both external and internal costs of energy production for different energy sources for the EU-25 Countries and for some non-EU Countries under energy scenarios to 2030; (2) To evaluate policy options for improving the efficiency of energy use, taking account of the full cost data; (3) To disseminate research findings to energy sector producers and users and the policy making community.

These objectives reflect the general requirement of the Sustainable Energy Systems Work Programme to address "questions of socio-environmental damages of energy production and consumption" and "to make a comparative cost analysis for present and future energy generation alternatives". The project is also relevant to the commitments undertaken by the European Union within the Kyoto Protocol. A detailed knowledge of the full cost structure of energy production within the EU-25 and some key non-EU countries is crucial to reach efficient decisions concerning emission reduction plans and JI/DCM projects. Objective 1 is met by an evaluation and comparison of system costs associated with alternative energy technologies, including social and environmental damage costs, thus changing the outdated perception that economic growth is necessarily at the expense of social standards and the environment. Objective 2 is met by evaluating alternative policy instruments to internalise environment-related externalities in the EU Member States and in selected non-EU countries and developing a set of recommendations on the use of policy instruments for the internalisation of external costs of energy production that reconcile economics with legitimate environmental and social concerns. Objective 3 is met through two stakeholder meetings that serve to validate and disseminate the projects outputs, and through a final conference presenting the results as well as through a variety of dissemination activities catering for different audiences. The success of the project will be judged in terms of the acceptability of the estimated energy costs by the scientific and policy communities and by the use made of these costs in a policy context.



The project runs from 01/04/2006 to 30/09/2008 and is coordinated by Prof. Anil Markandya of the Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei in Milan, Italy. It mobilised 26 partners from the following countries: Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and UK.
www.feem-project.net/cases/

WAFLA – Integrated Water resource management by the implementation of improved Agro-Forestry concepts in arid and semiarid areas in Latin America

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 Mesoamerica. Desertification is the most challenging problem in these areas, resulting from the non-sustainable use of the natural resources, leading to a reduction of the productivity of ecosystems and agriculture, thus increasing the poverty of the inhabitants. In order to combat these problems of desertification and poverty, there is a need for a sustainable management of resources in an international scope which brings together agro-forestry approaches with an integrated water resource management (IWRM) while taking into account the integration of stakeholders in a multidisciplinary approach. The general objective of WAFLA is to coordinate a research, technological innovation and social and policy development activities, creating synergies to promote the adoption of IWRM and improved agro forestry systems in order to propose real solutions to combat the degradation of dry lands and to enhance rural development in Latin America. Results so far comprise WAFLA country profiles with a thorough evaluation of water resource management practices in selected Latin American regions and documentation on agro-forestry practices. The main outcome of WAFLA will be the identification of management strategies and policy options for the promotion of region-adapted agro-forestry structures contained in Latin American Joint Arid Agro-forestry Management Guidelines based on the participatory management of agro-forestry modules, with the involvement of local communities.

The implementation strategies will be based on local conditions, involving: the identification of indigenous and adapted species with a market value and of corresponding technology packages for production of quality crops; the development of adaptable management practices for planting, irrigating, maintenance, harvesting and processing and the setting-up of an information network of markets for agro-forestry products to empower local producers and traders.



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The WAFLA project runs from 01/10/2006 to 31/03/2009 and is coordinated by Mr. Mirko Haenel together with Ms. Leonelha Barreto of Verein zur Foerderung des Technologietransfers an der Hochschule Bremerhaven e.V. in Germany. The consortium is made up of 21 partners from the following European and Latin American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Mexico, The Netherlands, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, UK, Venezuela.
www.wafla.com.

PLEIADeS – Participatory multi-level EO-assisted tools for irrigation water management and Agricultural Decision-Support

Access to good quality water in sufficient quantity for different uses, particularly food production as a largest consumer by far, is a key challenge in many regions of the world. The collaboration addresses the efficient and sustainable use of water for food production in water-scarce environments. It aims at improving and optimising irrigation systems by means of new technologies, but paying attention to the socio-economic context of potential users in the farming communities.

It does so involving water managers, farmers and river-basin authorities in the research that addresses the challenges from the basin down to farm-level scales. Pilot studies representing diverse conditions in the Mediterranean and the Americas showed depletion of groundwater from over-abstraction of aquifers in many places. The effects are not confined to farmers, but to society at large and to ecosystems.

The consortium uses field research and Earth Observation and Information Communication Technologies (ICT) systems and services to support the assessment of performance of selected irrigation schemes from different perspectives and to explore economically viable information services with stakeholders that help them improve efficiency and water governance at large. Early results show that farmers are already saving water for fine-tuning their on-farm irrigation management in several field sites of the project.



© PLEIADeS

The PLEIADeS project runs from 015/09/2006 to 14/09/2009 and is coordinated by Dr. M. Anna Osann and Prof. Dr. Alfonso Calera Belmonte of the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Spain. The consortium is made up of 24 partners from the following countries: Brazil, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and USA.
www.pleiaades.es

GUYAGROFOR – Development of sustainable agroforestry systems based on indigenous and Maroon knowledge in the Guyana Shield region

In the rainforests of Suriname, Brazil and Venezuela, indigenous and Maroon communities are facing increased outside pressures on their communal lands. The project aims at mobilising their capacities as forest managers through research into new strategies for sustainable development of agro-forestry systems that can empower these communities and contribute to the national economies.

Investigating indigenous and Maroon views of forest ecology, soil fertility and biodiversity management as well as their social organisation and need for institutional support will provide insights into indigenous techniques and approaches. These will be integrated with formal environmental management strategies to develop integrated approaches that allow farming systems to be productive. They also need to be balanced according to their water and nutrient use (soil fertility), diverse (biodiversity) and adapted to the ecology of the forest ecosystem. Training curricula will be designed for community groups and researchers. Through market analyses of cash crops, timber and non-timber forest products, the organisational and institutional framework needed to allow successful participation in regional and international markets will be explored. In depth research will also be carried out on selected product chains that are environmentally and organisationally most favourable for all parties concerned in order to prepare investments for further international export developments.

Tailor-made guidelines and recommendations on environmental management, product chain improvement and organisational strengthening will be provided for all stakeholders and findings documented in scientific publications.



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The project runs from 01/11/2004 to 31/10/2008. It is coordinated by Dr. Coen Ritsema of Alterra in the Netherlands. The consortium is made up of 10 teams coming from Belgium, Brazil, Netherlands, Portugal, Suriname and Venezuela.

www.guyagrofor.eu/guya_frame_page.htm

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 aims to assess the societal costs of fishing practices and fishery-linked policies in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. It is developing an interactive model that links ecological, economic and sociological perspectives in order to better define the true societal costs of contemporary fishing practices. It also emphasizes dimensions (such as culture) that are not traditionally integrated into such interactive models (due to the difficulty of attributing monetary values to such phenomena). The project is geographically spread over three continents (three countries for each continent) which are characterized by ecosystems of coastal up-welling (case of West Africa – Republic of Guinea, Senegal and Guinea Bissau), delta (case of South East Asia – China, Vietnam and Thailand) and coral reef (case of the Caribbean – Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic). The ECOST partnership has the support of key international and regional policy institutions – such as UN organisations and the OECD – and is underpinned by a solid network of research and development projects.

A new approach, based on the concept of societal cost, is developed in the ECOST project. Societal costs are 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).



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The rebuilding of marine ecosystems constitutes a global concern – as was expressed during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. In this context, caring for the marine nexus implicitly calls for the adoption of some form of valuation process. In this spirit, several policy days were devoted to assessing the progress made towards fulfilling the terms of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) in July 2006 and in July 2007. First results of the questioning of societal values – in the sense of the values that people confer upon their surrounding natural environment, and more 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. Outreach activities of the research results are also underway in all regions, including the Caribbean involving regional and UN organisations.

The project runs from 01/11/2005 to 31/10/2008. It is coordinated by Dr. Pierre Failler of the University of Portsmouth, UK. The consortium is made up of 16 teams and 7 associated partners coming 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.

www.ecostproject.org

SINCERE – Supporting international networking and cooperation in educational research

The SINCERE project aims at contributing to the consolidation and widening of perspectives, approaches and priorities of a globally open European Research Area in the field of education, training and Lifelong Learning. It does so by supporting international networking and cooperation between teams inside and outside the EU (Latin America and Southeast Asia), researchers and policy-makers, well beyond the specific SINCERE project. This is in recognition of the need for increased synergy and cooperation and internationalisation in educational research. It also reflects the necessity to "restructure" the existing research domains by taking into account innovations taking place in education systems in terms of processes, actors involved and cultural shifts. Other relevant factors are new drivers of change, the outcomes of learning systems expected by society at large. They should combine to enable greater social inclusion.

SINCERE proposes a classification of educational research according to an initial set of eight clusters which goes beyond conventional subject-based approaches. It aims at creating stronger links between educational research and on-going changes and societal and policy levels: (i) New requirements and expectations on learning systems; (ii) Education, training and lifelong learning innovation policies; (iii) Innovation in learning and teaching processes; (iv) New knowledge dynamics at individual, community, territorial and societal levels; (v) ICT contribution to learning systems; (vi) Learning contexts and learning communities; (vii) Learning results and evaluation; and (viii) Learning systems and socio-economic impact.

The international cooperation produced a Green Paper and 'roadmap' setting out proposals and a timetable for international research cooperation guaranteeing respect of local and national cultural and political specificities while at the same time enhancing common understanding on how to address the real educational and socio-economic needs and concerns of citizens.



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The SINCERE project runs from 01/01/2006 to 30/09/2008 and is coordinated by Dr. Claudio Dondi of the MENON Network EEIB in Belgium. The consortium is made up of six partners from the following European, Latin American and Asian countries: Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, Hungary, Malaysia and Spain.

www.sincere-network.org

MEDEA - Models and their Effects on Development paths: an Ethnographic and comparative Approach to knowledge transmission and livelihood strategies

MEDEA is a new project under FP7. It interrogates the impacts of development paths on the livelihoods and life-projects of citizens in different parts of the world. Central questions address how development models interact with specific socio-economic contexts, which effects these interactions have on the transmission of knowledge and skills and innovation, as well as how specific development paths affect livelihood strategies.

MEDEA favours an interdisciplinary approach which combines qualitative research and comparative methodologies with modelling to explore the dynamic effects of development models at micro and macro levels. One of the main hypotheses of the project is that the transmission of skills and knowledge, through formal and informal mechanisms (such as families and neighbourhoods) is central to development. Also, political and economic disruptions constitute situations of crisis in this transmission but at the same time afford opportunities for innovation.

Empirically, MEDEA focuses on connections between skills, work and unemployment in relation to heavy industry and attempts to identify critical points in the shift in demand for knowledge across generations, regions and economic spheres. An ethnographic approach also enables a detailed account of social networks within and beyond work places, including strategic friendship, kinship and neighbourhood relations. The project will thus contribute to the comparative analysis of various development models.



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The MEDEA project will start in 2008 for a period of three years. It is coordinated by Dr. Victoria Goddard of the Anthropology Department at Goldsmith, University of London, UK. The consortium is made up of 6 partners from the EU and Latin America Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Slovakia, Spain and the UK.

In addition, the following four South American countries are currently members of the Group on Earth Observations: Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. From 1 January 2008, South America is represented on the GEO Executive Committee by Argentina. In addition, Brazil is a very active Co-Chair of the GEO Capacity Building Committee. In Central America the following countries are GEO members: Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama. From 1 January 2008, Panama represents Central America on the GEO Executive Committee. For the time being, there are no Caribbean members as yet, but several groups from Latin America are actively involved in earth observation projects.

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:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index_en.html

Environment Research:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index_en.htm

Social Science Research:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index_en.htm

Science in Society:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm>

International cooperation:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm



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EU-LAC Summits since Madrid in 2002 have promoted the development of a shared Knowledge Area. European Research Framework Programmes are among the principal instruments for its development. In the 6th Research Framework Programme (FP6: 2002-2006) alone, some 221 collaborative scientific projects mobilised 538 teams from Latin America (529) and the Caribbean (9) and 2,679 European (and other non-Latin American) teams with a total value of more than €1.3 billion (EC contribution more than €700 million). Many of these address directly the topics forming the basis of dialogue at the level of the 2008 Lima Summit between Heads of State and Government from the EU-LAC regions.

Under the 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7: 2007-2013) international cooperation is intended to be more substantial, better coordinated and integrated by opening all its components to international cooperation and a high percentage of research opportunities are directly relevant for improved transitions towards sustainable development and a better grasp of the socio-economic conditions for change. It also creates an enabling framework for such cooperation through measures on scientific and technological policy dialogue, promotion and activities to improve coordination of international S&T cooperation of EU Member States. The present leaflet shows a small sample of concrete collaborations contributing to making the EU-LAC Knowledge Area a reality.

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