

**Update on the objectives, planned key activities and composition of Senior Officials Working Group in Renewable Energies in the context of the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation between countries in the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean.**

**Renewable Energy WG**

The work of the Renewable Energies Working Group seeks smart regional development geared towards sustainable energy supply. Through diverse activities mutual priorities – all in line with the orientations of the SET Plan- have been identified for potential collaboration.

The WG focused specifically in four areas: (a) bioenergy; (b) solar-photovoltaic; (c) solar-thermal; (d) wind energy.

Three main lines for actions were proposed for implementing pilot activities:

- Coordination funded through specific projects, joint/coordinated calls and ‘twinning’.
- Networking for the establishment of thematic networks, capacity building, regulatory framework
- The development of long term strategic proposals in order to better linking research and technological cooperation structures and nets as a first step towards what, in the medium or long term, could become LAC Technological Platforms on renewable energies

Recommendations towards the implementation of pilot activities according the three main lines for action:

**Line for action 1: Joint calls and project based proposals.**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Work progress</i>
Joint calls: bioenergy (biomass availability and conversion process) w/KBBE WG; solar – photovoltaic/thermal- and wind energy	<p>Viable ways to implement a joint call in biomass &amp; conversion processes under evaluation. Implementation through:</p> <p>a) CYTED - opening of particular scheme involving EU-LAC participants under consideration. Initial talks on-going.</p> <p>b) EULAC ERANet scheme under consideration (if approved).</p> <p>c) Interest (and possible commitment) in bi- tri- or multilateral cooperation on identified areas/topics for mutual interest in solar energy, both photovoltaic and thermal, and wind energy areas to be expressed by EULAC representatives</p>
Twinning /Further expansion of potential on-going national projects with focus on the research subareas identified	<p>-It is envisaged to advance on this through ALCUENet as tasks on these issues are included.</p> <p>-Possible implementation through funding agencies like IADB as such or to include the activities as part of their initiatives - the size and complexity to reach the goals are 4 years.</p>

**Line for action 2. Networking and exchanges**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Work progress</i>
Establishing thematic networks	<p>As a result of the activities in support to the WG, a group of experts in bioenergy, solar and wind energies consulted and involved in several activities coordinated by diverse projects –EULARINET, ACCESS to MEXCYT, ALCUE-KBBE- has evolved into a network that is already collaborating in diverse initiatives. This network will be strengthened through the ALCUENet activities 2013-2014 and is expected to be linked to other regional thematic nets (Reembio, Mesoamerican nets, CYTED, etc). Specifically, in October 2013 a workshop in the frame of ALCUE-Net project focused in renewable energies will take place back to back with CYTED’s experts’ meeting in Mexico towards updating/reviewing subareas for potential EU-LAC collaboration and identifying additional priorities in energy efficiency. The products from these activities will provide inputs to the schemes under consideration for implementing joint calls in the areas identified for potential collaboration (bioenergy, solar and wind energies).</p>
Capacity building	<p>Mobility programmes -EU-LAC research organizations, IRSES, Marie Curie and national programmes promoted seeking synergy with bilat-project activities.</p>

Policy dialogue meetings and regulatory frameworks	A program of workshops on different policy and regulatory aspects, to promote common views and best practices on specific issues is included in the tasks of ALCUENet. The priority objective is to promote policy convergence between EU and LAC countries.
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**Line for action 3. Long-term strategic proposals**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Work progress</b>
Opening of each other's programmes. Establishment of LAC Technological Platforms which could be linked to ETPs envisaged in the long-term strategic proposal.	The co-leaders of the WG are considering to invite other countries (Members of the WG initially) to evaluate their interest and capacities to join the actions. Contacts with organizations related to RE like OLADE and IRENA are included in the tasks of ALCUENet, towards developing synergies.

The selection of subareas, themes and topics for potential collaboration will be updated; energy efficiency to be explored.

BIOENERGY:     1. Biomass availability and supply  
                      2. Conversion processes  
                      3. Markets and regulatory framework  
                      4. Sustainability

PHOTOVOLTAIC: 1. Solar resources prediction and monitoring  
                      2. Quality Assurance Procedures  
                      3. Stand-alone systems  
                      4. Advanced grid integration & large integration of PV in building areas  
                      5. Capacity building

SOLAR THERMAL: 1. Quality Assurance Procedures oriented to the use of certified equipment and its certification, certifications integration, installers harmonization, equipment and installers.  
                      2. Thermal energy storage mainly in distributed generation

WIND ENERGY: 1. Wind Resource Assessment: computational tools, sodar and lidar technology  
                      2. Wind Turbines: technology for regional fabrication  
                      3. Removing barriers and promoting deployment and acceptance of wind energy: market obstacles, environmental issues, formation and training

**LAC participants:**

- **Mexico** (Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología - CONACYT)
- Argentina (Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva – MINCYT)
- Brazil (Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico - CNPq)
- Bolivia (Ministerio de Educación – MINEDU)
- Chile (Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica - CONICYT)
- Costa Rica (Institute of Technology of Costa Rica)
- Nicaragua (Consejo Nicaragüense de Ciencia y Tecnología - CONICYT)
- Peru (CONCYTEC – UNI)
- Uruguay (Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería)

**EU participants:**

- **Spain** (Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad–MEC)
- France (Ministry of National Education/French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission)
- Germany (Ministry for
- European Commission