

Working group

ICT for Societal Challenges



Why ICT?

Global economy and the development of ICT tools make space between people ever smaller, however, also creates new groups of included and excluded people.

Need to shorten the digital divide through access to government services (education, health, administration) - **digital inclusion** or **e-Inclusion** to increase life quality, and social and economic development,

ICT is a horizontal tool to address a very wide range of societal challenges



Scope of the ICT working group

The working group focuses on **four main areas**:

- e-Inclusion
- e-Health
- Smart cities
- Living Labs or open innovation

Latin-American – Caribbean participating countries

- **Chile, Uruguay, Perú, México, Nicaragua, Colombia, Martinique (FR), Argentina, Bolivia**

European participating countries

- **Finland, Austria, France, Portugal, Spain, Germany, EC (DG CONNECT)**



Work in progress...

- Very lively dialogue among working group participants and different stakeholders at the national, regional and bi-regional scale.
- Build upon a mature relationship and prior cooperation, enhanced by multilateral and bilateral projects.
- Very different needs and level of development of the ICT field in both Latin American, Caribbean and European countries.
- Need to move towards applied research projects in fields of mutual interest.

What do we propose?

- Create and maintain an observatory of ICT for societal challenges
- Networking actions:
 - Latin American and Caribbean Network of Living Labs connected the European partners
 - Thematically oriented Latin American Technology Platforms connected with European counterparts
 - Network of Smart Cities: new opportunities in Latin America

What do we propose?

- Joint projects in the use of ICT as a tool for local development
 - Outcome workshop 15th of April

Making use of available instruments

- ALCUE-Net and AMERICAS project
- @LIS
- Making use of multilateral funding mechanisms (coordination with CYTED, DG DEVCO, STIC-Amsud, ECLAC etc.)
- National funding mechanisms for implementing pilot initiatives (discussions with national funding agencies and establishment of pilot initiatives)

Achievements

- Connecting people across borders and centres, industries and governmental agencies
- Putting ICT on the research agendas and defining joint research topics
- Creation of a LAC Network of Living Labs
- Terms of Reference to create an observatory on ICT (finished in April/May 2013)

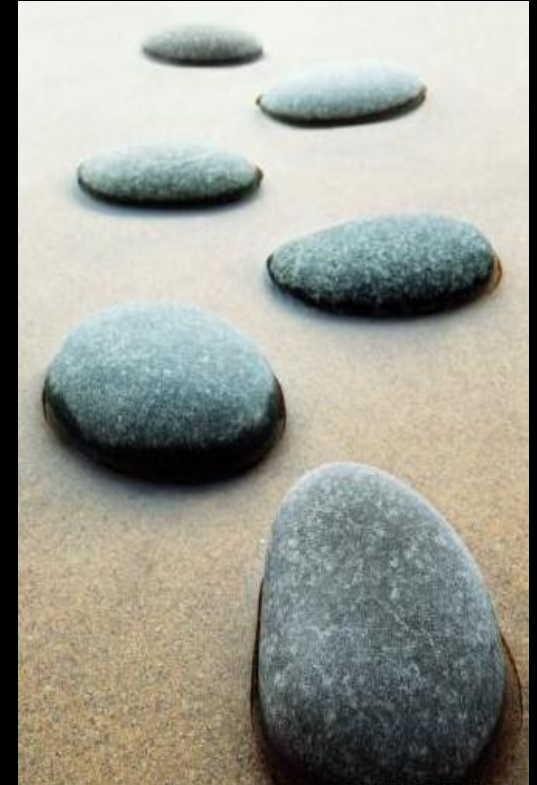
Next Steps

Short term

- By beginning of 2013 organisation of LAC Network of Technology Platforms
- Refine joint research topics identified in workshop
- Different matchmaking and twinning events under ALCUE-Net

Medium-long term

- supporting links between EU and LAC TP and LL networks
- implementation of the observatory
- Implementation of applied research projects between EU and LAC



Thank you very much!

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