

## ***EU-CELAC<sup>1</sup> Interest Group for bi-regional STI cooperation (EU-CELAC IG)*** an initiative by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Argentinean Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCYT)

### ***Scope of the EU-CELAC IG***

The EU-CELAC IG shall be a group of funding agencies from CELAC, EU Member States and Associated Countries wishing to cooperate in bi-regional science, technology and innovation (STI) collaboration. The EU-Commission is invited to participate with a specific view of promoting the overall coherence with the Governance of the EU-CELAC relations.

The EU-CELAC IG shall build on the collaboration experience and mutual trust established in past and ongoing FP7 projects e.g. in the framework of ERANet-LAC. It shall organize joint actions, e.g. joint calls, and thus support the implementation of the Common EU-CELAC Research Area and create further added value to its three pillars: Mobility of Researchers; International outreach of Research Infrastructures; Increased thematic cooperation to address global challenges.

The EU-CELAC IG shall define priority topics and instruments of common interest, taking the SOM activities and suggestions by participating funding agencies into consideration. To do so, it shall meet yearly, alternately in EU or CELAC. The participating funding agencies will decide in which joint activities and themes they want to get involved (variable geometry).

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, BMBF, and the Argentinean Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, MINCYT, offer to jointly coordinate the kick-off-phase (approx. 2-3 years) of the IG, i.e. to host the first meetings and to support the implementation of the first joint funding actions. Travelling expenses (transport and accommodation) are to be borne by the participating funding agencies.

### ***How to participate***

- Funding agencies interested in participating in the EU-CELAC IG are invited to contact Mónica Silenzi (msilenzi@mincyt.gob.ar) and Dr. Stephanie Splett (stephanie.splett@dlr.de) of the International Bureau at DLR Project Management Agency.
- Funding organizations participating in the EU-CELAC IG are invited to sign a letter of interest.
- Once a funding organization confirms interest in participating in a concrete joint activity, it will be asked to sign a Letter of Commitment.

Participation requires a high commitment and the ability to contribute to the implementation of concrete joint activities with financial and human resources (according to the capabilities of every actor).

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<sup>1</sup> CELAC: Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

## **Status of the EU-CELAC IG**

### *Members and interested institutions (list of EU-CELAC funding agencies attached):*

- All 31 EU-CELAC Funding Organizations which participated in both ERANet-LAC joint calls were invited to participate in the EU-CELAC IG and to send their LoI.
- 27 of them sent their LoI before 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2017.
- 3 are pending and probable to join the IG during the Launch Event in Brussels (see below).
- 1 Funding Agency (VIAA, LATVIA) declined participation for this moment.

### *Concrete pilot funding actions:*

- Joint Call Health: As “pre-pilot activity” of the EU-CELAC IG, ERANet-LAC supported the preparations for the first joint call of the EU-LAC HEALTH project coordinated by Spanish Health Institute Carlos III (ISCIII). The call was launched in December 2016. The EU-CELAC IG offers its services to future joint funding actions of in the area of health.
- Joint Call Energy infrastructures: A second ongoing funding activity is the implementation of a pilot call for research infrastructures in the area of marine energy. During the launch event in Brussels, the participating funding agencies will decide on the final topic. The launch of the call is intended for September 2017.

### *Launch Event:*

- The launch event will be realized following the EU-CELAC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and will take place in the afternoon of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Brussels, Belgium.
- Invited are representatives from EU-CELAC funding agencies, coordinators of ongoing EU-projects, representatives from embassies and other stakeholders.
- The aim of the launch event is to present the EU-CELAC IG to relevant stakeholders and to discuss the procedures towards next joint actions.
- Presentations of EC thematic units re topics relevant for collaboration with CELAC and of relevant ERA-NETs (such as BioDiversa, ....), which could be considered for future activities

List of EU-CELAC funding agencies involved in the EU-CELAC IG:

Country	Funding Organization	LOI arrived	No interest	Answer pending	SOM delegate	Platform
1. Argentina	Ministry of ST&I, MINCyT	X			x	yes
2. Barbados	Caribbean Science Foundation Inc., CSF	X				yes
3. Belgium	Belgian Science Policy, BELSPO	X				no
4. Belgium	Fund for Scientific Research, F.R.S.-FNRS	X				yes
5. Bolivia	Ministry of Education - Vice Ministry of S&T, MINEDU	X			x	yes
6. Brazil	National Council for S&T Development, CNPq	X				yes
7. Brazil	Research Support Foundation of the State of Sao Paulo, FAPESP	X				yes
8. Chile	National Council for Science and Technological Research, CONICYT	X			x	yes
9. Colombia	Administrative Department of ST&In, COLCIENCIAS	X			x	yes
10. Dom. Rep.	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, MESCyT			X	x	no
11. Ecuador	Secretariat of Higher Education ST&I, SENESCYT	X			x	yes
12. Finland	Academy of Finland, AKA	X				yes
13. France		currently under discussion				
14. Germany	AiF Project GmbH   Project management agency of BMWi, AiF	X				yes
15. Germany	Federal Ministry of Education and Research, BMBF	X			x	yes
16. Guatemala	National Council of Science and Technology, CONCYT	X			x	yes
17. Italy	Ministry of Health, SANITA	X				yes
18. Italy	National Research Council, CNR	X				yes
19. Mexico	National Council of Science and Technology, CONACYT	X			x	yes
20. Norway	The Research Council of Norway, RCN	X				yes
21. Panama	National Secretary of ST&I, SENACYT	X			x	yes
22. Peru	National Council of SST&I, CONCYTEC	X			x	yes
23. Poland	National Centre for Research and Development, NCBR	X				yes
24. Portugal	Fundacao para a Ciencia y a Tecnologia, FCT	X				yes
25. Romania	Executive Agency for Higher Education, RD&I UEFISCDI	follow up 28.2. - docs will arrive soon				
26. Spain	Institute of Health Carlos III, ISCIII	X				yes
27. Spain	Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, MINECO	X				yes
28. Trin.+Tob.	Caribbean Council for Science and Technology, CCST	X				yes
29. Turkey	The S&T Research Council of Turkey, TUBITAK	X				yes
30. Uruguay	National Research and Innovation Agency of Uruguay, ANII	X				yes
<b>Interested Funding Organizations that did not participate in the Joint Calls</b>						
Netherlands						yes
Czech Republic						yes
Austria FFG						yes
Croatia						yes
El Salvador	Mail was sent to Erlinda Handal - no answer so far	contact will be established during SOM				