

**Meeting of the Senior Officials (SOM) of the  
EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation  
Concepción, Chile,  
21-22 March 2012**

The agenda is in annex. Before the meeting, the five working groups had circulated reports of their activities. The EU and LAC regions met separately prior to the plenary meeting to discuss common standing points, objectives of the meeting and possible amendments to the agenda.

**Agenda Item 1: Opening**

The meeting was opened by Sergio Lavanchy, Rector of the Universidad de Concepción, Juan Angulo, Deputy Director of the Europe Direction of the Ministry of External Relations of Chile, José Miguel Aguilera, President of CONICYT and Isi Saragossi, Director of International Cooperation, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission. The meeting was co-chaired by María-Teresa Ramirez, Director of International Relations, CONICYT and Isi Saragossi, European Commission.

**Agenda Item 2: Background information from the Buenos Aires Ministerial Declaration to Horizon 2020**

A brief overview of aspects of current policy in research and innovation was provided by both sides. The ministerial meeting in science, technology and innovation (STI) in Buenos Aires in 2010 emphasised the use of STI for social development by generating solutions for common problems. Within the frame of the LACII (Innovation Policy for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean) an action plan has been developed concentrating on the consolidation of infrastructures, twinning of initiatives at a high level, and improved involvement of the private sector. To this end, six major axes have been identified: (i) coordination of policies in STI; (ii) development of human capital; (iii) pilot projects in priority areas; (iv) platforms at the regional and sub-regional level; (v) STI infrastructures; and, (vi) international cooperation. Mexico is undertaking a study on start-up businesses which will analyse public policies and instruments considered important in promoting start-ups.

On the European side, the audience was reminded of the policy context of the Europe 2020 strategy and the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative. Within this context, the next framework programme for research and innovation will be Horizon 2020, expected to be launched in January 2014. The current proposal focuses on three priorities, Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges. There are parallels with aspects of the policy issues reflected in Latin America. The Horizon 2020 proposal maintains the open nature of the EU research and innovation funding and also foresees the specific targeting of international cooperation for mutual interest and benefit. In addition, a new instrument (the Partnership Instrument) will be launched in 2014 as part of the EU's external relations policy. This instrument will support multilateral, bilateral and bi-regional support for public diplomacy, education, business and international components of the Europe 2020 strategy for countries which are no longer eligible for aid assistance. Horizon 2020 has a proposed budget of €80,000 million, and the Partnership Instrument of €1,000 million.

**Agenda Item 3: Status of the Roadmap for the implementation of the JIRI**

The State of the Art of the implementation of the roadmap was presented. This document currently contains a list of the objectives to be met and an overview of the actions being taken. It was noted that several initiatives were implemented in all parts of the road map, in coordination with stakeholders from public, private and education, research and innovation organisations at regional and bi-regional level. Furthermore, it was considered important to prepare a more complete catalogue of regional on-going initiatives. In addition, it was suggested that, actually, there are potential actions that have not been explored sufficiently, such as the creation of synergies between bilateral and bi-regional cooperation. It was also noted that additional involvement in the activities of colleagues from the Caribbean region would be useful. Capacity building, which is a common theme in several of the senior officials' working groups, could be further developed in the roadmap. Finally, it was noted that use of the Instrument for Industrialised Countries and other high-income

countries (ICI+) under the current European external funding was being explored for developing the Knowledge and Innovation Centre proposed in the roadmap.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Cross cutting issues –funding instruments and steps towards the implementation of EU-LAC pilot activities**

The working group on cross-cutting issues presented its report. The group had explored the availability of instruments for supporting research and innovation, which have been discussed with the co-leaders of the thematic working groups. The group considered that the objectives of the working groups should be closely linked to the core strategies of the individual countries, considering aspects of the market, the bi-regional dimension, global challenges and social impact. However, there seemed to be a need for better integration of research support between countries, and better use of the EU funding instruments (currently under FP7) and others. While it was considered that the development of new funding schemes and the wider opening of current schemes were legitimate and important objectives, existing schemes are effective for supporting current requirements of the working groups. While there are attempts to link funding at bilateral level, making such linkages at multilateral level is much more complex. To this end, 'common pot' funding is extremely difficult to implement, and various forms of parallel funding (each state supporting its own researchers, but in coordination/parallel with other states) are more likely to be effective. It was suggested that calls for expressions of interest could be used to mobilise national funding, and the ERANet scheme of the EU was noted as a useful instrument to do this.

In the ensuing discussion, the models of the 'Living labs' and of linking existing or future Latin American Technology Platforms with European Technology Platforms, as used by the ICT groups, were considered useful. It was also noted that the INCO-Nets and other multilateral instruments such as CYTED, could be used as platforms for cooperation in science and technology.

While it was thought that a wide range of countries should participate in a meeting of high-level representatives of the funding agencies, the national situations vary widely. As far as participation of national research funders was concerned, the European experience of 'variable geometry' was suggested as a useful model. Larger countries may have several research funders, often organised by thematic or other priorities. It was emphasised that it would be important to clarify the ideas for funding of working group priorities and other roadmap activities ahead of the Summit in January 2013.

There was general support for some sort of meeting of the funding agencies, either at a horizontal level or at thematic levels. This would need further definition before a full commitment could be made. It was noted that October 2012 would be too close to feed into the Summit in January 2013, so that concrete ideas would need to be forthcoming on beforehand. This point was further discussed under agenda item 7.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Progress of the activities in the thematic working groups**

The four thematic working groups presented their reports:

##### **(i) Bioeconomy including food security**

The group has identified three themes so far: (a) biorefineries, biomass and conversion technologies; (b) Observatory on food security and (c) capacity building on cross-cutting issues. Within each, several sub-themes have also been identified. The group identified joint or coordinated calls (parallel calls) as a useful mechanism for the themes identified. As a short-term measure, linkages could also be made by funded EU or LAC teams to some large on-going research projects, for example of bio-refineries. It was noted that synergies with the Working Group on Renewable Energies could be created and that a range of topics in the upcoming 2013 work-programme under FP7 would be of relevance to this theme. As for the observatory, it was recommended to coordinate any development with other such initiatives (particularly the EU-planned observatory). The partnering initiative on biodiversity in agriculture in the 2013 FP7 work programme was noted. Argentina, Chile and Mexico confirmed their participation and three other LA countries expressed interest. As far as the food security challenge is concerned, it was agreed to seek association with FORAGRO, the Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development, and possibly other existing platforms to develop that part of the mandate of the working group.

## (ii) ICT for meeting societal challenges

The group has identified three objectives: (a) development of an ICT observatory for social inclusion; (b) creating a network of 'Living labs', Intelligent Transport Systems and Technology Platforms, and (c) a Joint Initiative in the field of ICT hubs for local development. In addition, the group identified a range of complementary initiatives, for which partners from additional countries are sought. A number of current funding instruments are available, including existing INCONETs, the AMERICAS project, @LIS and a range of national programmes, not to mention private sector investment. The continued support to the interconnection of research networks (RedCLARA and GEANT) was considered crucial for the future development of ICT initiatives and cooperation in the Latin American region. In particular, it was thought that the 'Living labs' network, was achievable in the short term. Linking the recently established technology platforms in Latin America to their European peers was expected to start shortly but would take longer to consolidate.

## (iii) Biodiversity and climate change

This group had found that the approach of the two regions was quite different, which made developing common themes difficult. Nevertheless, four areas for action were identified: (a) the development of institutional capacities through a joint platform for sharing good practices; (b) long term capacity building; (c) setting up of scenarios for public policy and providing recommendations; and (d) sharing experiences. In addition, six prioritised research themes were noted. As the next steps, the group foresees more focusing in developing a bi-regional agenda for a Masters/Doctoral course; refocusing the prioritised research themes and, developing a network of them. Among the concrete ways forward was establishing links to the BIODIVERSA ERANET of 21 funding agencies and other stakeholders from 15 EU countries. BIODIVERSA has signalled interest to develop relations with LAC partners in view of possible future joint calls and other cooperation. It was noted that there would be commonalities with other themes, particularly in capacity building, where a common Masters might be envisaged with the bioeconomy (and possibly bioenergy) group. Thematic networks would be helpful in identify commonalities between the themes.

## (iv) Renewable energies

The group focused on four areas: (a) bioenergy; (b) solar-photovoltaic; (c) solar-thermal; and (d) wind. The group proposed three actions: coordination; networking (new and further supporting on-going actions); and, mutual opening of programmes. Coordination would be funded through specific projects, joint/coordinated calls and 'twinning'. Networking would be used for the establishment of thematic networks, capacity building, regulatory framework and 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. Additionally, the three subareas (wind, solar and bioenergy) will be pursued through coordinating on-going activities and through mutual opening of programmes. It was noted that a joint effort with other Working Groups could enhance the implementation of the objectives as is the case with the complementary focus of the bioenergy topics on "Biomass availability and conversion process" of the Renegies WG and those of the Bioeconomy WG.

## **Agenda item 6: General discussion on the subjects presented in the first day**

General points included the need to make sure that current networks are not duplicated, but that these networks are themselves linked. The need to identify the added value of the bi-regional approach, as opposed to the strengths of a bi-lateral approach, was also identified. A list of short term deliverables, which could feed into the CELAC-EU Summit in January 2013, would be important. To this end, the groups were asked to come up with a short list of actions, means and a timeframe for their groups, including better connection between different projects, programmes and initiatives operating in the same or similar areas.

It was noted that there are commonalities between the four groups. The most obvious is in capacity building in the different 'bio'-groups (1, 3 and 4), but also observatories and instruments, such as joint calls, are shared. The working groups were invited to identify these commonalities, in order to enhance synergies between them.

It was suggested that a common toolbox of instruments might be developed, or at least used to develop a common terminology (e.g. to clarify 'joint', 'coordinated', 'parallel' calls, terms often used interchangeably). Such a tool box might include the 'joint/coordinated/parallel' calls; mutual opening of programmes; partnering/networking through supporting projects; Framework Programme instruments such as ERA-Nets and INCO-Nets. This could be part of the proposed meeting of funding agencies later in 2012. It was noted that there will be an ERA-Net call in the 2013 work-programme of FP7 for the working groups of the EU-LAC Joint Initiative.

#### **Agenda item 7: General review and status of the working groups**

The Commission raised the issue of 'smart specialisation', whereby different regions of Europe will be expected to develop their economies based on their strengths rather than trying to 'do everything everywhere' and it was agreed to circulate documentation on this after the meeting.

The four working groups presented their draft proposals focussing on actions, means and timeframes: these will be further developed after the SOM meeting. The countries expressing an interest to join the working groups are listed below the overview table.

<b>Working group</b>	<b>Short term (2012)</b>	<b>Medium term (2012/13)</b>	<b>Longer term (2013+)</b>
<b>Bioeconomy including food security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biomass/bioavailability: top-up calls at national level</li> <li>- Joint work with Energy group on bioenergy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity building: short courses through Alcue project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Observatory</li> <li>- Masters/training</li> </ul>
<b>ICT for meeting societal challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Network of technology platforms</li> <li>- Network of 'living labs'</li> </ul> <p>All using current funding initiatives in place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting links between EU and LAC networks</li> <li>- Observatory on ICT for social inclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joint projects on ICT hubs for local development</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity and climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joint meeting and joint call</li> <li>- Exploring the opening of current EU initiative 'BiodivERsA' to third countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity building/masters</li> </ul>	
<b>Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing thematic networks</li> <li>- Beginning capacity building</li> <li>- Developing policy dialogues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joint calls and project based proposals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expansion of projects</li> <li>- Opening of each other's programmes</li> <li>- Long-term strategic proposal</li> <li>- Establishment of Technological Platforms</li> </ul>

Several countries expressed an interest in joining different working groups (to be confirmed after the meeting):

- Bioeconomy including food security: Germany, Finland, Colombia, Uruguay, Peru, Austria and Bolivia
- ICT for meeting societal challenges: Portugal, Austria, Bolivia. In addition, the 'living labs' network would entail the involvement of Mexico and Argentina.
- Biodiversity and climate change: Panama (Panama noted that the Central America region work closely together. Hence representation of a single country in Central America often represented a more regional involvement), Peru, Uruguay
- Energy: Bolivia, Chile, Germany

In further discussions, it was considered useful to set up a list of relevant organisations (research, industry, etc.) for each theme. It was suggested useful if the EULARINET Inco-net project could circulate information on events that it is aware of/organising. In addition, it was proposed to the co-leaders to involve and include the governmental level by identifying and contacting the person in charge of such initiative. It was suggested that the working groups, now that they have action plans, should feedback to all countries, including those not present.

It was noted that real progress was being made and that actions were happening as the result of the activities of the working groups.

Actions that came out of this session are:

- ***INCO-Nets to circulate information on on-going activities to all groups;***
- ***Working groups to examine the commonalities and cross-cutting actions with other groups***
- ***Thematic working groups to take note of the upcoming ERA-Net topic in the 2013 FP7 INCO work-programme***
- ***Commission to circulate documentation on 'Smart Specialisation'***
- ***Working groups co-leaders to circulate feedback to all countries***

#### **Agenda item 8: Roadmap review, updating, next steps and feedback for the CELAC-EU Summit January 2013**

Three actions were identified:

##### **1) Update the roadmap**

Input about achievements against objectives from the countries ***by June 2012*** so that an updated document can be circulated by September;

##### **2) Specific inputs from the Working Groups for the Summit**

A template will be circulated for the Working Groups to develop a short table to specify: Actions, means and timeframes with a view to developing solid input to the Summit. ***Input requested by June 2012***

##### **3) Organisation of a meeting of funding organisations**

The working groups will continue their work on focussing their work plans and putting them into practice, using also the INCO-Nets and other support projects and activities to engage with stakeholders to facilitate connection between on-going research and innovation and increase traction of the mutually agreed priorities. This will broaden the basis for a meeting of senior officials of interested research funding agencies to engage with the bi-regional cooperation as a step towards aligning agendas and strengthening cooperation. For such a meeting, it was felt that it might be best to have parallel meetings in Europe and in the Americas, with the active collaboration of the four thematic working groups and with an agenda focused on supporting the initiatives decided upon in the working groups. The outcomes of the parallel meetings could be discussed at a joint EU-LAC Funding Agencies meeting. ***The co-chairs will develop a proposal and circulate it to the group to seek consensus on the most adequate mode to bring in the research funding agencies.***

A proposal for a new group on Health was also discussed. This group could be based on the work of the EU-LAC health platform project, which kicked off in November 2011. The project is coordinated by Spain, and would like recognition in the SOM towards a future new working group. ***It was generally supported and a wider countries participation was recommended.***

**Agenda item 9: Closure of the meeting**

The meeting was closed by the co-chairs acknowledging the progress made and ensuring support for the implementation of agreed next step.

**EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation  
EU-LAC Senior Officials Meeting  
Concepción, Chile  
20-21 March 2012**

**Agenda**

<b>Tuesday, 20 March 2012</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Item #</b>	<b>Description of Item</b>	<b>Lead</b>
08:30-09:00		Registration, welcome coffee	
09:00-10:15		Regional preparatory meetings	Respective co-chairs
10:30-10:50	1	Opening of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official welcome by Sergio Lavanchy, Rector Universidad de Concepción</li> <li>• Official welcome by Juan Angulo, Ministry of External Relations, Chile</li> <li>• Opening remarks by José Miguel Aguilera, President CONICYT for the Chilean Co-Presidency, including a brief recap on the objectives of the SOM</li> <li>• Opening remarks by Isi Saragossi for the European Commission</li> <li>• Adoption of the agenda</li> <li>• Identification of the rapporteur</li> </ul>	Co-Chairs: Chile, Commission
10:50-10:55		Comfort break	
10:55-11:20	2	Exchange of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Buenos Aires Ministerial Declaration and onwards: Developments and perspectives Latin American and Caribbean research and innovation</li> <li>• Developments in Europe in research and innovation: Horizon 2020 and other relevant instruments</li> </ul>	Mexico  Commission
11:20-11:40	3	State of the Art of the Road Map to implement the EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI)	Co-Chairs
11:40-12:30	4	Presentation of the cross-cutting working group on good practice and funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant national, regional and bi-regional instruments available for funding EU-LAC pilot activities</li> <li>• Possible steps to involve instruments to fund EU-LAC pilot activities</li> </ul> Discussion	Mexico and Portugal
12:30-14:00		Lunch	

14:00-17:20	5	Presentations and discussion of progress in the four thematic working groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations of each working group, including objectives, joint activities and progress, followed by an open discussion.</li> </ul>	
	a	Bioeconomy including food security	Argentina and France
	b	ICT for meeting societal challenges	Chile and Finland
		Coffee break	
	c	Biodiversity and climate change	Colombia and France
	d	Energy	Mexico and Spain
17:20-17:30		Break	
17:30-18:15	6	General discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concluding remarks on the presentations of Day 1</li> </ul>	Co-Chairs
19:30-21:30		Courtesy dinner, Club Concepción	
<b>Wednesday, 21 March 2012</b>			
09:00-09:45	7	Recap by the working group rapporteurs and the general rapporteur <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General discussion on the status of the working groups</li> </ul>	Rapporteurs Co-Chairs
09:45-10:30	8	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and update of the Road Map</li> <li>• Next steps and reporting back to the EU-LAC Summit in January 2013</li> </ul>	Co-Chairs
10:30-11:00		Coffee break	
11:00-12:00	8a	Continuation of discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption by consensus of next steps and any updates of the roadmap</li> </ul>	Co-Chairs
12:00-12:15	9	Closure of the meeting	Co-Chairs

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