

Road Map

to implement the EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation which corresponds to the S&T part of the EU-LAC Madrid Summit Action Plan

The road map is put forward within the context of developing the "EU-LAC Knowledge Area", among others, through the **EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation** agreed at the S&T SOM in Buenos Aires, 25-26 February 2010 and endorsed by the S&T Ministerial Forum in Madrid, 14 May 2010. It incorporates key elements of an earlier draft for an implementation road map put forward by the past co-presidencies (Argentina and Spain, consolidated version 15 April 2010) and takes account of developments since.

The Road Map is organised on the basis of the structure of the Summit Action Plan section concerning "science, research, innovation and technology". The citations from the Summit Action Plan are in italics. **NB:** Expected results as framed in the Summit Action Plan may need activities under different headings/objectives and might not be fully achievable within two years until the next Summit.

The main objective in this area is to develop the "EU-LAC Knowledge Area" through:

- i) improving cooperation in research and innovation;*
- ii) strengthening scientific and technological capacities, and infrastructures;*
- iii) enabling sustainable research, innovation and knowledge sharing taking into account the contribution of ancestral and traditional knowledge;*
- iv) boosting the use of new technologies and technology transfer underpinning sustainable socio-economic development; and*
- v) fostering cooperation between both regions as regards the digital economy and the reduction of the digital divide for improving competitiveness while making social inclusion a cross-cutting issue.*

An additional objective is to strengthen and develop the existing cooperation instruments.

Action Plan Item a) *Establish a regular bi-regional dialogue on science, research, technology and innovation to consolidate EU-LAC cooperation and to update common priorities, encourage mutual policy learning and ensure the proper implementation and effectiveness of cooperation instruments*

Activities:

- Nomination of senior officials and alternates in each EU-LAC country by early 2011.
- Senior Officials Meetings (SOMs) will be convened annually.
- The co-chairs will ensure continuity between SOMs, notably by regular information regarding progress with implementing the road map.-They will be assisted by senior officials as agreed by each region. INCONETs and other projects will support the implementation of specific actions as appropriate.

- Establish working groups between meetings to develop and enhance cooperation in the following priority areas: bioeconomy, including food security; biodiversity and climate change; ICT for meeting societal challenges; energy.
- Establish also a cross-cutting working group on best practice and funding.

Expected Results:

- (l) *Road Map defining specific targets and associated performance indicators for the implementation of the Joint Initiative will be set up and updated on a regular basis.*

Action Plan Item b) *Explore the possibility of working jointly with other institutions in matters related to innovation and knowledge, applied research and technological innovation.*

Activities:

- Develop, together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), World Bank, CACYT¹ and other relevant institutions, a workshop on good practices of international cooperation on science, technology and innovation, preferably in the first half of 2011.
- Analyse programmes such as CYTED² and the Iberoamerican Innovation Programme for proposing coordinated work.
- Explore together with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) possible synergies relating to the “Innovation Initiative Towards Latin America”.
- Seek other relevant opportunities for such collaboration through 2012.

Expected Results:

- (p) *Improved quality and effectiveness of the scientific and technological cooperation through: iv) increased information exchange.*

Action Plan Item c) *Commence the development and implementation of the new mechanism, the "EC-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation" combining instruments at national, regional and bi-regional level as appropriate in a complementary and synergistic manner.*

Activities:

- Analyse the potential synergies between bilateral and multilateral activities in the priority areas identified in the Joint Initiative (renewable energies; environment and adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change; food, agriculture and food security; health with emphasis on poverty related diseases and public health systems; ICT) including the analysis of the key factors for its successful implementation and of lessons learned during its negotiation, preparation and

¹ CACYT is the Council of Science and Technology of the Community of Andean countries.

² CYTED is the 'Programa Ibero-Americano de Ciencia y Tecnología'

implementation process in order to make more efficient the design of future instruments by mid-2011. Work of already on-going INCO-Nets or other types of existing projects or networks (e.g. EUROCLIMA, RALCEA) may also be considered. Activities mentioned under items a) and d) to j) of the Summit Action Plan all form part of the Joint Initiative. In order to avoid duplication, they will be addressed under the respective items in the sequence they appear in the Action Plan.

- Create a network and a virtual platform to enhance sharing of information and experience with particular emphasis on research and innovation. This will benefit from inputs from numerous projects (European FPs and others, including preferably a wiki on key information relevant for innovation).
- Evaluate the experience of existing programme and project twinning among research programmes at different levels and the potential for extending their coverage in terms of countries, programmes and research topics (2012 and 2013).
- Evaluate coordinated research funding instruments, such as the one implemented in the EULANEST project, and identify adjustments needed for optimising their potential for promoting synergistic funding of research and innovation/development (Status report by mid 2011).
- Increase synergies between research and other cooperation programmes (e.g. bilateral research cooperations, FP7 and development cooperation as appropriate), including human resource strengthening activities (e.g. Europosgrads, different scholarship programmes) through 2012 promoting strategies to favour the return of researchers to their country of origin.
- Further refinement, for consideration by the SOM, of implementation steps for the "EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation", including among other aspects: (i) priority areas for cooperation; (ii) activities and instruments; (iii) funding options (through 2012).

Expected results:

- (m) A comprehensive joint strategy in research, development and innovation supporting, among other things, an improved use of the possibilities that ICT offers.*
- (p) Improved quality and effectiveness of the scientific and technological cooperation through: i) increased knowledge of EU-LAC scientific and technological communities; ii) increased research focus on agreed items of mutual interest; iv) increased information exchange.*

Action Plan Item d) *Establish or strengthen thematic networks on agreed issues of mutual interest, which should facilitate exchanges between EU-LAC universities and research centres and networks and private and public sector institutions.*

Activities:

- Identification of synergies between existing promotional networks already animated through promotional and networking projects (EULARINET, ENLACE, EUCARINET, FIRST, PRO-IDEAL Plus, follow-up to ALCUE Food, ELAN2Life, EUROCLIMA, RALCEA and others) and how they can contribute to the development and strengthening of more specific initiatives and identified strategic issues (through 2012).
- Develop further project and programme twinning in priority areas of cooperation through 2012.
- Promote networking around social participation, synergistic use of scientific and local knowledge and integration of ICT (through technology capacity building) into generation of new knowledge and use for innovation, continuous through 2012.

Expected Results:

(p) *Improved quality and effectiveness of the scientific and technological cooperation through i) increased knowledge of EU-LAC scientific and technological communities; ii) increased research focus on agreed items of mutual interest; iv) increased information exchange.*

Action Plan Item e) *Strengthening the integration of both regions in the Information Society and support the development of the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector and the reduction of the digital divide and digital illiteracy through an increase of interconnectivity between the education and research networks within and between regions and enhance access to and use of resources.*

Activities:

- Consolidation and extension of RedCLARA 2 network for improving the access of Latin American countries to e-infrastructures, with a special focus on reaching Latin American and Caribbean regions which present a lower level of progress in this aspect, on-going through 2012.
- Support action for the feasibility study of new submarine optic fibre cables between Latin America and Europe starting in 2011.

Enhanced collaboration and interoperability between the European Spatial Data Infrastructure (INSPIRE) and national/regional efforts in Latin America / the Caribbean, e.g. the Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (IDEA).

Expected Results:

(m) *A comprehensive joint strategy in research, development and innovation supporting, among other things, an improved use of the possibilities that ICT offers, including in the areas of e-Government, e-Health and e-Education, as well as in relation to climate change-related and other relevant issues.*

(n) Reinforced private and public sector efforts for the improvements of the interconnection of education and research networks through the enhancement of transatlantic links, including through new optic fibre cables.

Action Plan Item f) *Develop and intensify the dialogue and cooperation on information society, strategies, regulation models for the communication sector and in the audiovisual field.*

Activities:

- Regular bi-regional dialogues of telecommunication regulators and ICT policies supported by @LIS 2 programme, on-going through 2012.
- Promote the extension of the results of ICT projects and technological platforms (e.g. FIRST) to the region as a whole.

Expected Results:

(o) Increased compatibility of regulatory frameworks in the field of electronic communications and improved quality of digital contents.

Action Plan Item g) *Develop an interface between research and innovation through a knowledge and innovation centres' network to facilitate social appropriation of knowledge and technology in particular keeping in mind the micro and SMEs.*

Activities:

- Establish a Knowledge and Innovation Centre in order to network relevant existing actors and projects through strengthening the interface between research and innovation, including with EU funding by early 2012.
- Learn from innovation practice and experience through easily accessible documentation, workshops (e.g. EULARINET workshop in Uruguay, March 2010, IDB workshop, November 2010 in Buenos Aires), innovation forums (annual events in Uruguay on Pan-American basis open to Europe) and other opportunities throughout 2011 and 2012.
- Extend the development of the Biotec-EU-MERCOSUR project with particular attention to networks, incubators and technology parks, to be analysed and made available by early 2011 and kept under review for updating through 2012.
- Promote the formation of (joint) learning and research centres of excellence between EU-LAC partners, on an on-going basis through 2012, such as is the case with a German-Chile centre of excellence, the "Fraunhofer Center for Systems Biotechnology" and others in Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- Promote the establishment and/or strengthening of science and technology parks in Latin America, including for strengthening focal areas of EU-LAC entrepreneurial cooperation and keeping a higher percentage of LAC human resources within the region and therefore increasing attractiveness of cooperation, on an on-going basis through 2012.

- Enhance collaboration between the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Latin American / Caribbean countries in agreed strategic areas of common interest.

Expected Results:

(k) New initiatives for more effective coordination and cooperation aiming at interconnecting knowledge, science; research and innovation; as well as business, entrepreneurial, and research centres and networks from the EU and LAC countries, and leading to an improved uptake and dissemination of research results for innovation, in particular for micro and SMEs.

Action Plan Item h) *Promote the extension of scientific and technological cooperation within all Latin American sub-regions and the Caribbean, as well as the adoption of innovative instruments to strengthen cooperation with special attention to countries with low participation in EU-LAC Science and Technology cooperation activities.*

Activities:

- EU-LAC focus in 2011 work programmes of FP7 with broad-based information activities including video-conferences, a specific EU-LAC InfoDay and mobilisation of FP7 contacts throughout Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean particularly between July and October 2010.
- Consolidate thematic FP7 contacts in all LAC countries and continue training and networking to build local capacity in support of their research teams' participation in FP7 and the integration of LAC researchers and institutions in the European Research Area.
- Liaison offices with longer experience will continue extending support to others in LAC countries as part of the regularly on-going activities; use of on-line courses will be encouraged, e.g. the 'Project Angel' concept practiced by the PRO-IDEAL project in ICT.
- Explore multilateral twinning throughout 2012.
- Promote the participation of LAC researchers as observers in FP7 projects in order to involve them into research networks and to build capacities to attend future research calls.

Expected Results:

(p) Improved quality and effectiveness of the scientific and technological cooperation through i) increased knowledge of EU-LAC scientific and technological communities; ii) increased research focus on agreed items of mutual interest; iv) increased information exchange.

Action Plan Item i) *Foster cooperation for human and institutional capacity building and encourage the return of researchers to their countries of origin.*

Activities:

- Promotion of LAC participation in all types of Marie Curie Actions of individual and institutional research grants; the international incoming fellowships (IIF) foresee the possibility of funding for reintegration grants for returning researchers; specific attention should be paid to the two under-utilised schemes “Industry-Academia Partnerships” and “Initial Training Networks” (ITN) in the 2011 and 2012 work programmes of FP7 (People Programme).
- Promote full use of the Erasmus Mundus Programme
- Continuation of the Europosgrados events and associated programmes for student and researcher mobility of EU Member States and LA countries through 2012.
- S&T capacity building in Caribbean countries through the relevant EDF project, running through 2012.
- National and/or collaborative capacity building programmes in S&T&I in several countries.
- Joint PhD programmes between EU and LAC countries' higher education institutions through 2012.
- Promote the mutual access to research infrastructures in agreed areas of common interest as well as the development of joint infrastructure initiatives.
- Foster the role of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in training and capacity building of scientists and administrators in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Strengthening and developing the existing instruments is important.

Expected Results:

(p) *Improved quality and effectiveness of the scientific and technological cooperation through i) increased knowledge of EU-LAC scientific and technological communities; iii) larger scientific and technological capacities of LAC countries, involving also national programmes and capacity building for the Caribbean, to drive their own development and to achieve enhanced cooperation opportunities with the EU; iv) increased information exchange.*

Action Plan Item j) *Exchange experiences and best practices in areas of innovation, such as incubation, entrepreneurship, science parks and start-up enterprises.*

Activities:

- Use of results of INCONETs workshops and analyses for supporting a more structured process of learning about innovation experiences and their applicability in different situations in EU and LAC countries.
- Convene one or more workshops through inter-institutional collaboration to support broader-based learning in these areas.

- Participation in the LA Innovation Forum in Uruguay in 2011 and other such initiatives.
- Strengthening and developing the existing instruments is important.

Expected Results:

(k) *New initiatives for more effective coordination and cooperation aiming at interconnecting knowledge, science; research and innovation; as well as business, entrepreneurial, and research centres and networks from the EU and LAC countries, and leading to an improved uptake and dissemination of research results for innovation, in particular for micro and SMEs.*

(p) *Improved quality and effectiveness of the scientific and technological cooperation through i) increased knowledge of EU-LAC scientific and technological communities; ii) increased research focus on agreed items of mutual interest; iv) increased information exchange.*