



ALCUE NET – Latin American, Caribbean and European Union Thematic Workshop on Information and Communication Technologies

19 – 20 March, 2014

CONICYT / VTT

ALCUE NET - is a four and a half year project funded by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union, which started in December 2012. The consortium is composed of 19 institutions, eight from the European Union and eleven from Latin American and Caribbean countries, representing stakeholders from government and research. Its main goal is to strengthen bi-regional sustainable dialogue on Science and Technology between European (EU), Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries.

Scope and objectives

ALCUE NET's main objective is to establish an EU-LAC platform bringing together actors involved in research and innovation, funding and implementation, as well as other relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors and the civil society, in an effort to support the development of more strategic and result-oriented partnerships in the context of bi-regional research policy cooperation frameworks.

In pursuing this general objective ALCUE NET seeks common visions on specific issues, to coordinate activities and identify priorities of shared interest. Following the conclusions and recommendations from the Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) on Science and Technology, from Brussels in 2011, Santiago in 2012, to Brussels in 2013, and in agreement with the activities mentioned in the Roadmap for the implementation of the EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI), the project focuses on achieving progress towards joint improvement of key aspects of societal challenges related to assuring high quality affordable food, energy, and climate change.

Background information on EU-LAC Policy Dialogue¹

European Union (EU) – Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Summit in 2010 adopted **Madrid Action Plan** in order to develop and reinforce bi-regional cooperation in six fields. The first of these fields is **Science, Research, Innovation and Technology**.

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) supporting 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 with respect to the digital economy and the reduction of the digital divide for improving competitiveness while making social inclusion a cross-cutting issue.

The **Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation**, called **JIRI**, was endorsed by the 2010 Madrid Summit Action Plan. Its mandate is, among others, to “establish 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”.

The European Union – Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (EU-CELAC) Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) takes place every year in order to discuss STI bi-regional cooperation. JIRI working groups present at the SOM results of their activities and possible paths for greater cooperation.

Five senior officials working groups were established in 2011 within the JIRI to mobilize stakeholders on priority areas of mutual interest. Calling on a wide range of experts from both regions with the support of several INCONETs, the **five thematic working groups** are the following:

- Bioeconomy including food security – co-led by Argentina and France
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for meeting societal challenges – co-led by Chile and Finland
- Biodiversity and Climate Change – co-led by Colombia and France

¹ Background documents can be downloaded from: IV EU-LAC SUMMIT, Madrid, 18 May 2010 “Towards a new stage in the bi-regional partnership: innovation and technology for sustainable development and social inclusion”

JOINT INITIATIVE FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION:

http://eeas.europa.eu/lac/madrid2010/events/science/docs/20100226_st_som_final_doc_en.pdf

MADRID ACTION PLAN 2010-2012: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/114540.pdf

MADRID DECLARATION: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/114535.pdf

- Energy – co-led by Mexico and Spain
- Funding and good practices for collaboration – co-lead by Mexico and Portugal

The thematic working groups have narrowed down objectives for the short – and medium term and outlined concrete activities and funding options to be further elaborated for bi-regional cooperation in their focus areas.

In 2013, a sixth Working Group was created in the area of Health.

The main aim of the **Working Group on ICT for Societal Challenges**, is to enhance the cooperation and integration of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union in ICT and thereby contribute to the mutual development of policies and inclusiveness in the field.

The ICT theme is horizontal to the societal challenges and supports the development of global priorities. With the aim of targeting the societal challenges broadly, the work of the ICT group is focused on e-Inclusion, e-Health, Smart Cities, and Living Labs, addressing challenges in the fields of social cohesion, inclusiveness, sustainability and innovation for the benefit of the populations both in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe. These four topics have been identified by the SOM Working Group on ICT as central for the development and cooperation between both regions.

The thematic priorities developed and implemented by the ICT working group are:

The thematic priorities developed and implemented by the ICT working group are:

- Mapping of current and past bilateral and bi-regional ICT projects in the areas of e-Inclusion, e-Health, Smart Cities and Living Labs. The database includes more than 200 projects and 1800 researchers and stakeholders.
- Latin American and Caribbean Network of Living Labs connected to the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL), created in 2012.
- Thematically oriented Latin American Technology Platforms connected with European Technology Platforms, to be carried out in 2014-2015.
- Network of Smart Cities: promote the opportunities for cooperation among Latin American and European megacities

Workshop objectives

In line with ALCUE NET work, the thematic workshop organised in Santiago will discuss two topics that were identified by the SOM ICT Working Group as strategic in the ICT field of both regions: **e-inclusion, with emphasis on e-Health for remote areas**, and **Smart Cities**. The discussion of these topics will give the input needed to develop a Concept Note including recommendations, in particular regarding future research priorities on the topics. This note will be sent to the SOM in order to provide a governmental mandate for implementing joint calls in the selected areas.

In addition to the opportunity of defining the recommendations, which will be submitted to the SOM, the workshop will also be an occasion to identify research topics in ICT of mutual interest, in the light of future funding opportunities, as well as exploring the possibilities of coordination of research initiatives and national funding instruments.

The two-day meeting has been organised in such a manner to achieve the main objectives of the workshop.

The first day will include: an overview of the current projects being developed on ICT between the EU and CELAC, a presentation from the European Commission with the opportunities for cooperation included in Horizon 2020 for ICT, a presentation from ECLAC with the priorities of LAC ICT, the presentation of the thematic networks in ICT of CYTED, and an overview of the work undergone out in order to carry out the ICT Mapping in ALCUE-Net. After contextualising the current state of priorities and projects in both regions, the workshop will be organised in Working Sessions.

The first Working Session will be set in parallel sessions where participants will be able to share their experience and the results of their projects on e-inclusion and e-health, smart cities and living labs. Identifying the work carried out in the past and the one developed in current projects will be an opportunity to promote twinning among the participants, which can later lead to joint projects.

The second day of the workshop will be focused on the preparation of the Concept Note on ICT which will be proposed to the Senior Officials Meeting. Parallel break-out sessions will discuss and analyse the priorities for EU-CELAC cooperation on ICT and further develop the two topics chosen:

- e-Inclusion with special emphasis on e-Health for remote areas



- Smart cities

It is expected that the participants actively engage in the discussions regarding the text to be proposed to the SOM and thereby influence the decision making process.

Workshop participants

The event will involve around 45 EU and LAC experts in the ICT field familiar with bi-regional networks and projects. It will also involve ALCUENET partners, policy makers, stakeholders, representatives of innovative companies, as the coordinators of selected relevant transnational projects.

Please refer to the list of participants for further details.