

ALCUE NET – Latin America, Caribbean and European Union Thematic Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change

March 4-6, 2014 – Santa Marta

Colciencias, Bogotá, Colombia / IRD, Marseille, France

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 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 to Santiago 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 focus 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.

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

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”.

Five senior officials working groups were established in 2010 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 four **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 the following areas:

- 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**
- Energy – co-led by Mexico and Spain

A fifth cross-cutting group co-led by Mexico and Portugal looks at funding and good practice.

The European Union Economic Community of Latin American and Caribbean countries (EUCELAC) Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) takes place every year in order to discuss STI bi-regional cooperation. JIRI work group present at the SOM results of their activities and possible paths for greater cooperation.

Addressing societal challenges through action in biodiversity and climate change thematic priority of the JIRI allows identification and development of activities in this field. Specific objectives include:

- Assessing the bi-regional STI cooperation on biodiversity and climate change,
- Strengthening STI cooperation in the field of biodiversity and climate change by identifying conditions and opportunities for joint activities and funding instruments;
- Helping to improve the conditions for bi-regional cooperation in biodiversity and climate change, through the promotion of information, sharing experiences and good practices and encouragement of innovation initiatives.

Workshop objectives

This workshop will focus on biodiversity and climate change, with the specific aim **to identify key topics for research and innovation cooperation between the two regions**. Discussions will ensure to assess and define how addressing climate change and biodiversity use issues as societal challenges. It will result in identifying priority topics in this field so that a consensus could be reached. Workshop results will be gathered into a Concept Note including recommendations, in particular regarding future research priorities on the topics. This note will be sent to the JIRI so that it can develop a joint call. If appropriated, the note would also be used as an input for SOM recommendations in early April 2014.

Workshop programme

The workshop will start on Tuesday, 4 March morning, with an overview of the EULAC science technology and innovation (STI) cooperation landscape, followed in the afternoon by presentations on biodiversity and climate change breakthroughs. Both scientific and stakeholders issues will be addressed by highlighting specific networks, initiatives and key research challenges. This will allow

the participants to be provided with a general background and state-of-the-art before starting the discussion and debate on Wednesday's working sessions.

On Wednesday, 5 March, in order to facilitate the discussion, working sessions have been planned and will focus on three types of ecosystems (Andean, Amazon and coastal ecosystems) although it does not prevent transversal topics to come up during the discussions. The outcomes of the working sessions will be considered as important elements for the formulation of common priority topics on biodiversity and climate change.

Finally, a session dedicated to the SOM (Senior Official Meeting) working group on biodiversity and climate change will be organized on Thursday, 6 March to discuss the next steps of the cooperation and the preparation of the SOM meeting to be held in Costa Rica in April. Through the SOM decision making process, priority topics would be submitted to the ERA Net LAC to form the basis of a joint call for proposals, and more globally to integrate joint research agendas, and national priorities and policies in both regions.

Workshop participants

The thematic workshop in Santa Marta will include participants with varied backgrounds and disciplines (researchers, project managers, institution representatives...) from both regions, sharing a common interest and expertise in biodiversity and climate change area. Keynote speakers will highlight successful initiatives and networks that directly support international cooperation in biodiversity and climate change, across the existing EU-LAC landscape. It will allow the showcasing of concrete models of successful cooperation and to envisage future links as part of networking and capacity building efforts to support the JIRI. These interactions will be reported and discussed during a SOM BCC WG session to make recommendations about joint activities towards biodiversity and climate change.

Venue

Estelar Santamar Hotel & Centro de Convenciones

Km 8 Pozos Colorados Santa Marta

Phone number: +57 (5) 432 8181

Fax: +57 (5) 432 8185

www.hotelesestelar.com

For more information about this workshop, please contact IRD (Claire Freour: claire.freour@ird.fr) or Colciencias (Libardo Andres Gutiérrez Mengual: lagutierrez@colciencias.gov.co)