



EU-LAC Health Defining a Roadmap for Cooperative Health Research between the EU and Latin America- Caribbean Countries: a Policy Oriented Re- search

Number 03 – Nov. 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

EU-LAC Health at a glance : The new relevant partners

Page 3

Overview on project events

Page 7

EU-LAC Health Advisory Board in the spotlight

Page 8

FP7 Research and Innovation projects

Page 9

Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation - Health working group

Page 10

News and calls

Page 15

Relevant Events

Page 16

Related projects



Dear readers,

EU-LAC Health is now about to complete a consultation and validation process of the first draft of the Roadmap for the Joint Initiative on Health Research and Innovation (JIHRI). This draft has been the result of a long consensus process carried out among policy-makers, expert scientists, programme managers, and others at stake, that have expressed their views through different surveys and workshops along a 3-year period of the project.

The JIHRI aims to serve as a bridge to promote, enhance and coordinate the collaboration on Health research and innovation between two closely related regions, Europe (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

The EU-LAC Health project elevated the first draft Roadmap to the high policy level by presenting its draft of scientific research agenda and basic governance structure to the delegates of the EU-CELAC Senior Official Meeting (SOM) last 3rd-4th April in Costa Rica. Those delegates are in charge of implementing the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation approved at the highest level during the EU-LAC Summit held in Madrid 18 th May 2010.

A latest accomplishment of the project has been to enlarge the consortium

with two new relevant partners representing excellent actors in health research from each of the regions:

- 1 -The Alliance Nationale pour les Sciences de la vie et de la Santé (AVIESAN), through the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) of France
- 2- The National Institutes of Health, through Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición of Mexico (INNCMNSZ) (ongoing process for consortium adhesion)

The project expects to give a significant step by entrusting the management of the JIHRI to the Interim Governing Board at the next EU-LAC Health meeting in Brussels on June 2015. The launch of this initiative will allow accomplishing its long-term mission of efficiently address public needs by implementing sustainable and excellent collaborative Health research with a bi-regional added value based on a joint agenda endorsed by policy makers, researchers and stakeholders from both EU and LAC regions.

We wish you a pleasant reading!

EU-LAC Health coordination

EU - LAC Health at a glance: The new relevant partners

INSERM - Aviesan

Founded in 1964, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) is a public scientific and technological institute, which operates under the joint authority of the French Ministry of Health and the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research. Inserm is the only French public research institute to focus entirely on biomedical and human health research. Thanks to the excellence and the multi-disciplinary character of its research units and research centres, the Institute is in a position to ensure the link between the research laboratory and the hospital bed. The results of fundamental research can thus give rise to clinical studies, particularly in the clinical investigation centres created in partnership with University hospitals. From the outset, Inserm has forged close partnerships with the other public and private research establishments as well as hos-

pitals to fulfil its missions. 80% of the Inserm's 289 research units are currently set up in university hospitals or cancer research centres. Inserm plays also a leading role in creating the European Research Area and boosts its standing abroad through close international partnerships based on scientific excellence. Inserm is involved in the industrial and economic promotion of its own discoveries: Inserm Transfert, his private subsidiary, helps researchers to establish proof of concept of their innovation, and comes into play for the registration of patents and in the search for industrial partners. **Inserm is one of the founding members of Aviesan**, the French National Alliance for Life Sciences and Health established in April 2009. Built around common goals, Aviesan brings together Inserm, CNRS, CEA, Inra, Inria, IRD, the Institut Pasteur, the French Conference of University Presidents and the French Conference of University Hospital CEOs. Aviesan is

organized into 10 Thematic multi-organization institutions (ITMOs) addressing all of the major areas in life sciences and health. One of the goals of Aviesan is coordinating the strategic analysis, the scientific program, and the operational implementation in Life and Health Sciences research at French institutions. They provide France with scheduling and strategic analytical capacities and manage their scientific communities through an operational coordination by encouraging the emergence of centers of excellence and large-scale projects and by supporting the constitution of large biological and computerized data banks.



INCMNSZ

The National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition Salvador Zubirán (INCMNSZ) is one of the National Institutes of the Mexican Ministry of Public Health that provides third level medical care for adults. It opened its doors on October 12th, 1946 under the name of "Hospital for Nutrition Diseases". However, in 1978, when it further developed its medical care to other fields and in recognition of its founder, the name of the hospital was changed to "National Institute for Nutrition Salvador Zubirán". This title was preserved until June 2000, when the term "Medical Sciences" was also incorporated in its name in order to emphasize the nature of the Institution as a center of expertise dedicated to the comprehensive development of medicine. From the outset the INCMNSZ was con-

ceived as an institution dedicated to provide specialized medical attention to address the nutrition and internal medicine healthcare necessities of the Mexican population. The institution is designed to promote and assure quality medical care in its techno-scientific dimension as well as in its interpersonal care. Furthermore, it adopted as one of its main principles the medical care focused on the patient within a general framework of quality, security and excellence. At the INCMNSZ the expertise and highly specialized knowledge is developed through scientific research that is translated into human resources formation and training in health care, and only then implemented in medical assistance. Its purpose is that the high quality and safe healthcare provided by the Institute becomes a reference for national and international standards.

INCMNSZ is the national health institution that conducts research, provides teaching and training, and high quality health care with security, honesty, responsibility and social commitment within a general framework of freedom and loyalty in service of the human being and his environment.

INCMNSZ vision is to be a national and international health institution leader in its field for its excellency in healthcare, teaching and training, and in its medical research with a fully operational network of affiliated centers which apply the same integrated model.



Overview on project events

EU-LAC Health Roadmap Consultation and Validation Workshop



The 6th EU-LAC Health Workshop had the goal to discuss with EU and CELAC stakeholders the current draft of the roadmap for the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative for Health Research and Innovation (EU-CELAC JIHRI), analyze the results of the consultation process undertaken previously as well as further advance towards the refinement of the consensus roadmap

Madrid, Spain, 22 – 23 October 2014

The EU-LAC Health consortium invited policy-makers, scientists, health research experts, Advisory Board members and project partners to Instituto de Salud Carlos III to further advance the project's roadmap. Prior to the workshop, national health research policy-makers were asked about their opinion on this current draft and whether they consent with the roadmap through a remote consultation. The results of this consultation process, which proved the high interest of EU and CELAC countries through generally quite positive answers and suggestions. Improvements were taken up for revision of the roadmap and all results will be used to finally refine the roadmap document.

In order to enrich the discussion especially on governance and to get incentives from other well-working initiatives, EU-LAC Health invited three representatives of the Joint Programming Initiatives: JPI on Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND, Philippe Amouyel), JPI on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR, Mats Ulfendahl) and JPI Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life (JPI HDHL, Martijntje Bakker). All three JPIs were asked to present their initiatives and explain how their internal governance procedures – as multilateral European initiatives – work. JPIs are EU-Member States driven activities that work towards a) a synchronization of national programmes by trying to align these and b) issue joint calls on the basis of “variable geometry” (meaning that MS / consortium partners can decide on a case-by-case basis whether they are interested to participate in the joint call).

Very active group discussions on invited participants followed, based the answers and input from the national representatives on the “Vision and Mission”, “Objectives and Principles” and

“governance”. The incentives given already in the morning session by the JPIs could here especially be used for the governance part.

The next two discussion sessions took place on the second day of the workshop and focused on the roadmap refinement. Participants were split up into groups on the three important parts that will influence the coordination of EU-CELAC JIHRI: the policy governance, the scientific guidance and the involvement of all different sorts of stakeholders. The objective of these discussions was the proposition of activities / milestones in order to get the ambitious initiative running. The third group discussions dealt with technical specificities of governance of the future EU-CELAC initiative (via a “Coordinating Body”) with its different governance “bodies” interplaying with each other – the “Governing Board”, the “Scientific Advisory Board” and the “Stakeholder Advisory Board”. Questions such as who should belong to these boards, criteria to choose the members, how should they be organized, what would their expected results / objectives be and how could the sustainability be ensured, were dealt with.

It was stressed that all discussion groups agreed that in order to make the EU-CELAC JIHRI successful and sustainable all governing board members need to have a legitimate (decision-making) mandate from their respective national governments. Further, the

Scientific Advisory Board should be composed of high-level scientists (basic and clinical scientists, industrial) chosen not only by bibliometric metrics but representing the different regions and scientific fields in a balanced manner and considering the gender balance. A third and important outcome was that the workshop participants agreed about the need to have a holistic approach – meaning that the EU-CELAC JIHRI should also consider to cover and promote non-research actions such as workshops e.g. on common standards and capacity building. The very good feedback from the discussions and the enthusiastic and committed reactions of the audience demonstrated the great potential and need for a common approach.

The next EU-LAC Health conference will be the larger “Implementation Conference” in Brussels at the beginning of June 2015. Objectives of this conference will be the presentation and dissemination of the final version of the EU-LAC Health roadmap so that a maximum impact of the roadmap is reached. Further, it is planned to engage representatives of national ministries in a discussion about how to best implement this initiative.



Second EU-LAC Health Roadmapping Workshop: Analyzing and benefiting from the current political scenario to strengthen EU-LAC Health Research Cooperation



Madrid, Spain, 26th - 27th February 2014

The EU-LAC Health consortium invited the EC Policy Officer, Advisory Board members, scientific experts and policy-makers to the 2nd Roadmapping Workshop in Madrid, Spain. It took place in the premises of Instituto Carlos III (ISCIII). The meeting's main objectives were: a) the elaboration on how to best utilize the current political scenario b) the exploitation of synergies with ongoing existing initiatives and c) the improvement of the main policy document to be produced by the project (Roadmap for a joint initiative on health research).

The workshop was opened by two high level speakers from Spain and Costa Rica: Carmen Vela, Secretary of State for Research, Development and Innovation, Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness in Spain as well as Keilor Rojas, Vice-Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications in Costa Rica. Costa Rica holds the pro tempore presidency of the CELAC (Community of Latin America and Caribbean States). Both speakers stressed the importance of collaboration in health research, the support to the project progress. People face the same problems caused by diseases that do not stop at borders; therefore efforts should be made to jointly tackle these diseases.

Following the welcoming address a crucial aspect was discussed: the favorable current political scenario deriving from

the EU-CELAC Senior Officials Meeting (EU-CELAC SOM).

Since 2010, high-level Senior Officials from national bodies of both, the EU and CELAC countries, meet annually to implement the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI), an initiative that has been initiated by the heads of state of both regions in order to strengthen the EU-CELAC cooperation. In April 2013, a new working group on health (SOM WGoH) has been established which not only stresses the importance of EU-CELAC cooperation in health research but also gives further visibility and importance to the project. In the discussion groups, the role of the EU-LAC Health project was scrutinized and it was agreed that this project is well suited to serve as a technical support body to the SOM WGoH that can not only offer concrete call topics but also provide the Senior Officials with ideas on how to best institutionalize such collaboration.

Several other initiatives such as the European Infrastructure for Translational Medicine (EATRIS-ERIC) and the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRI-ERIC) both included in the ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) roadmap, ALCUE-NET, and ERA-Net-LAC were presented. As a first step, EU-LAC Health has produced several topics that will be presented at the next EU-CELAC SOM in order to get the commitment of the funding agencies and could be imple-

mented by the ERANet-LAC. The roadmap to be created by the EU-LAC Health project is a document that is aimed particularly at policy-makers. Next to a background explaining the political context, the document consists of a governance part as well as a proposed 'Scientific Research Agenda' produced in great joint effort by expert scientists from EU and CELAC and the project. In the discussion groups of the second day, ideas were put forward on how to best compile and arrange this document for the specific target group. Input from the policy-makers, experts and scientists were very useful and will be taken into account so that a maximum impact of the roadmap is reached.

The great feedback from the discussions and the enthusiastic and committed reactions of the audience demonstrated the great potential and need for a common approach to effectively institutionalize EU-LAC health research cooperation. All valuable outcomes and inputs from the discussions will be taken into account to further develop the roadmap as well as interact with the ongoing initiatives.

For more information:

<http://eulachealth.eu/past-events/>



Project's members and participants in the last day of the workshop held in Madrid

First Roadmapping Workshop held in Mexico City, 16th and 17th October 2013 - Main outcomes



Session of Mexico Workshop

The first “Roadmapping Workshop” took place in Mexico City for two days. Health research experts, research programme managers and decision makers from EU and LAC countries, as well as EU-LAC Health Advisory Board Members and project partners discussed about governance issues in order to further

develop the values and principles of a “Governing Body”, and discussed about funding focused on identifying different research activities that need to be financed when collaborating and trying to estimate an adequate budget for such research collaboration.

more institutionalized EU-LAC health research cooperation.

The EU-LAC Health project would be able to suggest specific EU-LAC health research topics to the ERANet-LAC.

The feedback from the discussions and the enthusiastic and committed reactions of the audience showed that there is a great potential and The EU-LAC Health project would be able to suggest specific EU-LAC health research topics to the ERANet-LAC.

To read more about this workshop: <http://eulachealth.eu/past-events/>

The possibility of launching a pilot EU-LAC joint call in the area of health research via the new ERANet-LAC was discussed. It was commonly agreed that a pilot joint call between both regions would be an important milestone that could function as a best-practice example for the project as well as towards a

Second Scenario Building Workshop held in Rome, 11th and 12th April -2013 - Main outcomes



The second “Scenario Building Workshop” took place in Rome. European and Latin American health sector experts met with project partners and the project’s Advisory Board in order to discuss potential scientific areas and possible funding mechanisms for coordinated joint health research collaboration. The main questions that were addressed during the workshop were in how the cooperation in health research could be financed efficiently; in what governance structures are needed and which scientific areas would be enriched by the bi-regional cooperation. The workshop was organized to discuss the implementation EU-LAC cooperation, dealing with a scientific and a governance part, according to the planned roadmap. The discussions showed that

it is of utmost importance to have a common understanding of possible funding mechanisms and instruments able to support this collaboration.

The workshop and the discussions emphasized that there is a great potential and need for both sides for a common and effective approach to institutionalize EU-LAC cooperation in health rese-

arch. But these governing and funding mechanisms will have to be further explored and adjusted to the special needs of EU-LAC cooperation.

To read more about this workshop: <http://eulachealth.eu/past-events/>



Project’s members and participants in session of Rome workshop

Scenario Building Workshop held in Buenos Aires, 22nd and 23rd October 2012 - Main outcomes

The Workshop was held by the EU-LAC Health project consortium on 22-23 October in Buenos Aires and was opened by Ms Águeda Menvielle, Director of the Internacional Relations Department of Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCYT), Mr Alfonso Díez Torres, Ambassador of the EU in Argentina and Ms Carolina O'Donnel, Technical Coordinator of Ministry of Health (MSAL) emphasising the importance of international cooperation between EU and LAC for scientific development. Advisory Members and project partners came together with European and Latin American experts from the health sector in order to analyze different scenarios of

possible common funding mechanisms for joint health research collaboration. In this scenario, the first part of the workshop consisted of a review of potential health research areas for collaboration suggested by EU and LAC country representatives in response to a preparatory survey carried out by the consortium. These areas need to be identified and analysed to determine overlappings and common health research interests. The international cooperation in health research then brings an added value and mutual benefit to both regions.

In the second part, these were examined through an indepth SWOT - analysis by the partners, experts and project

advisors. This SWOT - analysis has been seen as a success by the participants allowing the partners to better anticipate the risks and opportunities when it actually come to realistically plan, organize and establish common funding schemes of health research.

To read more about this workshop: <http://eulachealth.eu/past-events/>



EU-LAC Health State of Play Workshop held in Rio de Janeiro, 19th and 20th March 2012 - Main outcomes

The EU-LAC Health State of Play Workshop took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 19th and 20th of March 2012. The participants were welcomed by Paulo Buss, director of Centre for International Relations in Health of Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), and Carlos Segovia, from Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII), coordinator of EU-LAC Health, presented the project. Project partners, Advisory Board members, experts and high-level representatives from the European Union (EU), from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries, contributed with their experience, knowledge and lively discussions to the success of the workshop. The State of Play Workshop was the first public presentation of the project, in which EU-LAC Health consortium presented the State of Play

Analysis in Health Research carried out by the partners.

The Project partners presented an analysis of the present situation of the R&D on Health in the LAC and the EU, the identification of research for health funding programs and the existing legal framework of Science & Technology collaboration between LAC and EU. It was generally acknowledged that both regions have a Strong potential but the differences between and within the two regions have to be kept in mind when collaboration is envisaged.

The vivid discussions were enriched by short presentations of some of the invited external experts sharing their experiences in relation to research collaboration, capacity building and mobility.

To read more about this workshop: <http://eulachealth.eu/past-events/>



EULAC Health Advisory Board in the spotlight

The prospects of the interaction in health research between the two regions in the near future

By Stephane Berghmans *

More than two years ago already I was asked to join the Advisory Board of EU-LAC Health. I was of course honoured but more importantly I was convinced of the potential importance of this project with its aim to establish a roadmap for health research collaboration between Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the European Union (EU).

With today's technology developments we can communicate and travel faster, easier and cheaper. Collaboration in the world of research has therefore become much more international allowing for better and more productive science. Looking for example at scientific publications in both EU28 and South America (as regions defined in SciVal), the proportion of the total scholarly output resulting from an international collabo-

ration has gone up by almost 10% in just the last five years. In 2014, 35.3% of publications in South America and 33.5% in the EU have authors affiliated with institutions in at least two different countries. Researchers in Spain published over 6000 publications in 2013 with researchers in LAC countries, making Spain EU's top collaborator with LAC.

Collaboration is an important way to bring great minds together from around the world to grapple with major scientific questions. Collaboration leads to significant benefits in research, some measurable such as new therapies and others less easily quantifiable such as broadening research horizons. But collaboration has positive impact beyond science, from enhancing domestic prosperity to addressing societal health challenges and our well-being.

Therefore, it is important for governments and research organisations to encourage research collaboration with the aim to ensure the free circulation of researchers, knowledge, ideas and technology. There are various levers policy makers can use to encourage collaboration or alleviate some of their burdens. However, sometimes what

might seem to be a simple encouraging scheme can carry unintended consequences. It is therefore important to understand the (health) research environment and the levels of collaboration between strategic world regions such as the EU and LAC. That is why a project such as EU-LAC Health is so important in my eyes.

Pan, R. K., Kaski, K., and Fortunato, S. (2012) "World citation and collaboration networks: uncovering the role of geography in science," *Scientific Reports*. 2: 902.
 Wuchty, S., Jones, B. F. and Uzzi, B. (2007) "The increasing dominance of teams in production of knowledge," *Science*. 316: 1036–1039.
 More on SciVal: www.elsevier.com/online-tools/research-intelligence/products-and-services/scival; data source: Scopus October 2014.

*About the author

Stephane Berghmans is a Doctor in Veterinary Medicine with a Ph.D. in genetics and molecular biology. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School, where he studied cancer at the Dana Faber Cancer Institute. He moved to the drug discovery biotech sector in 2004 first in Cambridge (UK) and then Portland (USA) as Director of Biology. He joined the European Science Foundation in 2009 to head the Biomedical Sciences Unit, managing the European Medical Research

Councils (EMRC) and focusing on science policy and strategy. Stephane joined the Global Academic & Research Relations team at Elsevier in 2013 where he oversees EU strategic initiatives, partnerships and stakeholder needs.

DVM, PhD, Vice President Academic & Research Relations, European Union



FP7 Research and Innovation projects

BBICE+: Promoting research and innovation between Europe and Brazil

B.BICE+ is an International Cooperation (INCO) project funded by the European Commission whose aim is to enhance bilateral cooperation and to support political dialogue in Science, Technology and Innovation among the European Commission, EU Member States, Associated Countries and Brazil.

The principal objectives and activities of B.BICE+ are:

- To contribute to the ongoing ST&I policy dialogue between the EU and Brazil;

Providing annual reports to the committee in charge of EU-Brazil bilateral agreements;

- To promote enduring partnerships between EU and Brazilian actors in the whole research-to-innovation chain;
- By developing online tools to encourage and strengthen international partnerships;

Organizing two Technology and Innovation Forums: one in Brazil and one in Europe;

Facilitating the exchange between European and Brazilian: Collaborative research teams; Technology transfer offices; Research laboratories promoting collaborative action and sharing means; Brazilian and European research and innovation networks.

- To facilitate the coordination of EU Member States' cooperation in research with Brazil on the "program level";

- To disseminate information on programs encouraging cooperation in research and innovation between the EU and Brazil;

- Hosting of "Information Days" in Europe and in Brazil to raise awareness of the services and activities provided by

- Carrying out meetings and workshops to foster the participation of state-level institutions in Brazil (FAPs, SECTIs, etc.) into EU-Brazil cooperation as well as raise awareness of current programs and initiatives.

B.BICE+ collaborates with partner organizations in sharing information, organizing events, and reaching the research and innovation community in Europe and Brazil.

The collaborating institutions are: IRD (France), Universidade de Brasília (Brazil), Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq Brazil), ANPROTEC (Brazil), DLR (Germany) and Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas/Help-Forward (FORTH Greece).

The partners organization: EURAXXES, European Network in Knowledge Transfer in Health (ENTENTE), EUBRASIL, Enterprise European Network (EEN), The Institute for Studies Brazil Europe or the Instituto de Estudos Brasil Europa (IBE), Academic Links and Strategies for the Internationalisation of the HE Sector (ALISIOS) and Exchange of Entrepreneurs between Europe and Brazil (CONNECT).

For further information visit: <http://www.b-bice-plus.eu/>



B.BICE+, promote opportunities for EU-Brazil cooperation under Horizon 2020, advertise Member State and Brazilian programmes ;

- To promote an approach to innovation as an overarching policy objective for EU-Brazil bilateral cooperation;

- To establish a Joint Action Taskforce (JAT) constituted of several European and Brazilian research and innovation institutions, tasked with defining a roadmap for coordination and implementation of joint action with participation of EU Member States and Brazilian institutions;

EU TOUR OF BRAZIL 2014

Organized by the European Union Delegation to Brazil and the Embassies of the EU Member States, with the support of B.BICE+ and EURAXESS, the Tour of Brazil is a series of events scheduled in Brazil for 2014. The events take place in various Brazilian states

throughout 2014 and will be open to research and innovation authorities.

Tour of Brazil sessions will provide information on European Research and innovation cooperation programs - Horizon 2020 and Member States programs- open to Brazilian organizations or individuals interested in carrying out research and innovation projects with

Europe .

The next event will be held in Portugal Embassy on November 27th, 2014. The theme will be Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

More information: <http://www.b-bice-plus.eu/tour-of-brazil-schedule-of-upcoming-events/>

Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation - Health working group

Setting health research priorities is a major contribution

By Manoel Barral Netto*

National commitment of several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean has narrowed the gap with Europe in health research in recent years. Several international mechanisms have participated in this commendable capacity building, among them several European initiatives deserve a special mention, such as the Framework Programs (FP6, FP7 e.g.), besides other bilateral cooperative efforts by national governments. Time has come to intensively stimulate that such highly capable scientific communities cooperate more intensively both pushing back the frontiers of knowledge and contributing to well being of people.

Establishing priorities in health research is not an easy task. This difficulty is further compounded if priorities are to be established to attend different continents with quite distinct history, social and economic situation and with expected diverse health conditions. This was

the challenge faced by European Union, Latin American and Caribbean (EU LAC) Health when the Senior Official Meeting (SOM) commissioned a health research strategic plan for these large geographical areas. Such a plan would serve as a technical basis for the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation in Health.

EULAC Health was able to gather a group of talented scientists from several countries in Latin America, Caribbean and Europe which established a set of criteria to establish priorities in distinct areas of health. The criteria included several points of great interest as the importance of the theme for several countries of the regions and the existence of an added value of a combined investigation of the problem joining efforts of these regions, such as exploration of the diverse population genetics.

In several countries the Ministries of Health have a strong influence in determining priorities in health research. Establishing links between them and the authorities in the science and technology area is critical for a fruitful operation which take advantage of the strengths of both domains. Links and mutual influences between health and science

and technology present subtle variations among the countries in the regions involved in the project. Understanding and taking care of such aspects was an additional benefit of having a representation of several countries in the experts group.

Another important aspect in the road for reaching a meaningful list of priorities was to establish a series of discussion with experts from distinct countries as well as members of SOM. A careful consideration of the external advisors helped focusing on subjects of real relevance for exploiting the advantages of distinct genetic backgrounds as well as diverse cultures and their effects in nutrition, activities besides other elements which influence health status.

research agendas are achievable only if an effective coordinating body operates intensively. Of utmost importance, are actions to provide access to research infrastructure, both in Europe and in the Americas, as this maybe elemental to tackle larger projects and provide human capacity building in the frontiers of research .



*About the Author

Manoel Barral-Netto (Doctor, Faculty of Medicine of Bahia - UFBA, 1976; Doctorate in Human Pathology in 1988) is member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and Commander of the National Order of Scientific Merit. He is currently a senior researcher at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ-Bahia) and professor of the Faculty of Medicine

of Bahia (Federal University of Bahia). Works in Immunoparasitology. The most frequent topics of his scientific production are: leishmaniasis, immunoregulation and vaccine. It has been Dean of Research and Graduate Studies and Director of the Federal University of Bahia School of Medicine of Bahia (UFBa), Director of Thematic and Sector Programs CNPq (2003-

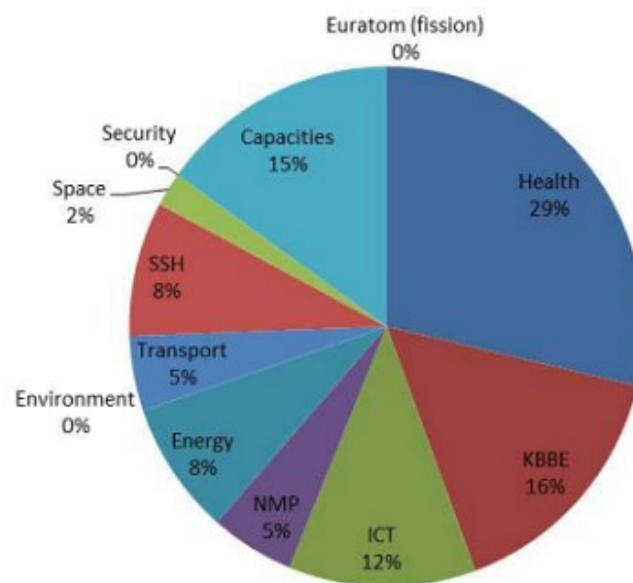
2006), member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (CATC) of CNPq and CNPq Lattes Commission and a member of the Steering Committee of the Healthcare Sector Fund (MCTI) and Director of Institutional Cooperation CNPq March 2011 to May 2013 and is currently Director of the Instituto Gonçalo Moniz (FIOCRUZ-Bahia).

News and calls

COOPERATION BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE EU ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION: STATE OF PLAY - (Report on the implementation of the strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation) {COM (2014)567 final}

As of February 2014, Brazilian entities participated 211 times in FP7 signed grant agreements, receiving a total EU contribution of EUR 31.3 million. The distribution of the Brazilian participation (by total cost of Brazilian participants) over the different FP7 subprogrammes is shown below. 1881 Brazilian researchers have been funded through the Marie Curie Actions (2007-2013) and Brazilian institutions have participated in 187 projects. As shown in the graph below **Health is the area where most of cooperations** are registered.

Fig. Distribution of the Brazilian participation over the different FP7 subprogrammes (by total cost)



There is an on-going FP7 Project (BBICE+) which supports the policy dialogue and durable partnerships between the EU and Brazil.

Brazil has been targeted as an important partner for cooperation in the first Horizon 2020 work programme (2014-15), encouraging cooperation with Brazilian researchers included in areas such as biofuels, ICT and marine research.

The scope of direct scientific interactions carried out by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre with partners in Brazil include the areas of disaster prevention and crisis management; sustainable management of natural resources, in particular forests and water; Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH); energy with a focus on smart grids; food security; Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy (KBBE); Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), including geoinformation and space applications; Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies (NMP).

Work is on-going to strengthen the synergies between the EU's cooperation with Brazil and the activities of the Member States (MS), including through the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation (SFIC). The collection of information carried out through SFIC indicates that the research topics addressed in cooperation with Brazil vary widely. It is noteworthy that a large number of agreements between individual Member States and Brazil do not have a specific thematic field and follow a bottom-up approach. They often centred on researchers mobility and, to some extent, access to European research infrastructures.

Finally, cooperation on research and innovation is a core area of the EU Brazil bilateral cooperation and it contributes significantly to the achievement of the EU's external policies. The importance of cooperation on research and innovation in addressing the shared economic, environmental and societal challenges within the context of the overall EU-Brazil relations has been reiterated at the XVth Joint Committee of November 2013 and at the EU-Brazil Summit of February 2014. Research and Innovation features prominently in the EU-Brazil Joint Action Plan on Competitiveness and Investment, which has been welcomed by leaders at the last Summit as a building block for future EU-Brazil cooperation on these themes.

Moreover, remarkable synergies are being created between research policy and external action instruments. In some of the areas targeted for research and innovation cooperation, synergies are being built up with the Sector Dialogue Facility for Brazil, a DCI programme that aims at strengthening Sector Dialogues between Brazil and the in 33 diferente áreas, among which research and innovation is na importante priority.

Work is on-going to strengthen the synergies between the EU's cooperation with Brazil and the activities of the Member States (MS), including through the **Strategic Forum for International Cooperation (SFIC)**. The collection of information carried out through SFIC indicates that the research topics addressed in cooperation with Brazil vary widely. It is noteworthy that a large number of agreements between individual Member States and Brazil do not have a specific thematic field and follow a bottom-up approach. They often centred on researchers mobility and, to some extent, access to European research infrastructures.

Finally, cooperation on research and innovation is a core area of the EU Brazil bilateral cooperation and it contributes significantly to the achievement of the EU'S external policies. The importance of cooperation on research and innovation in adressing the shared economic, environmental and societal challenges within the context of the overall EU-Brazil relations has been reiterated at the XVth Joint Committee of November 2013 and at the EU-Brazil Summit of February 2014. Research and Innovation features prominently in the EU-Brazil Joint Action Plan on Competitiveness and Investment, which has been welcomed by leaders at the last Summit as a building block for future EU-Brazil cooperation on these themes.

Moreover, remarkable synergies are being created between research policy and external action instruments. In some of the areas targeted for research and innovation cooperation, synergies are being built up with the Sector Dialogue Facility for Brazil, a DCI programme that aims at strengthening Sector Dialogues between Brazil and the in 33 diferente áreas, among which research and innovation is na importante priority.

For the future, in an effort to make research cooperation an integral part of a comprehensive package of external actions, and given the strategic role of Brazil in tackling the global challenges addressed by cooperation in research and innovation, more synergies will be sought with other external instruments, in particular with the Partnership Instrument. Framework conditions for research cooperation in Brazil have been improving over the last decade. The government adopted two consecutive National Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Strategies (most recent 2012-2015) to create a proper Science Technology and Innovation System. An improved innovation regulatory framework, a larger and more accessible funding structure and international cooperation are key elements of this strategy. Increasingly, the federal government and the regions (state governments) identify joint priorities and set the share of resources that each will contribute in the field of innovation. In practice, this implies more opportunities for cooperation (including with the EU) at grassroots level, while inevitably it increases the complexity of the decision-making and implementation mechanism for research and innovation.

Since 2004 -2005, the legal framework allows for direct funding of business-led innovation through competitive grants and a wide range of fiscal incentives, particularly in green economy, housing technology and social housing. In the field of intellectual property rights (IPR), progress has been noted in Brazil over the last years regarding protection of IPR, particularly in terms of intensification of public-private cooperation in the fight against IPR infringements. There is, though, still room for improvement as regards the capacity of the registration authorities and the judiciary.

Since 2008 an EU-Brazil IPR dialogue provides a forum for discussion of IPR issues of interest to either or both parties⁵. In the areas of standardisation, Brazil has shown interest in strengthening the capacity of its companies, especially of SMEs, as well as laboratories in the area of standardisation and technical rules through increased dialogue and EU-Brazil bilateral initiatives, so as to improve market accessibility from both sides for products and services. As regards the funding of research and innovation and innovation cooperation, the federal government is the main source of funding for universities and other research organisations. Over the past decade, state level research foundations have increased their funding of research. Petrobras (oil sector) is becoming a major source for funding innovation research in universities⁵.

More information: http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2013/april/tradoc_151003.pdf



News and calls

EU-CELAC cooperation in STI: 1st ERANet-LAC Joint Call is now open

On 16th September 2014, 20 European and Latin-American and Caribbean funding agencies launched the first transnational call under the ERANet-LAC project. The objective of the joint call is to develop cooperative research and innovation activities between the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

The 1st ERANet-LAC joint call brings together the multidisciplinary expertise of 20 partners from 17 EU-CELAC member countries: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey and Uruguay. Their total commitments amount to 11.4 million euros.

The scope of the call includes the following thematic fields: Biodiversity/Climate, Bioeconomy, Energy and Health. The topics were selected by the 20 participating funding organizations out of a pool of topics proposed by the working groups of the EU-CELAC SOM (Senior Officials Meeting), which were created to implement the *Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI)*.

Detailed information on the topics, the call text and the application guidelines are published under: http://eranet-lac.eu/Joint_Calls.php. Deadline for the submission of proposals is 27th November 2014. A second joint call is planned to be launched in 2015.

In addition to the joint calls ERANet-LAC is presently implementing "Pilot Coordination Actions" promoting mutual opening and coordination of existing European, Latin-American and Caribbean research and innovation programmes and infrastructures. In the scope of these actions, ERANet-LAC offers technical and financial support for strategic meetings in order to establish a long-lasting frame for the coordination of programmes (http://eranet-lac.eu/Pilot_Coordination_Actions.php).

ERANet-LAC is a Network of the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on Joint Innovation and Research Activities funded by the European Commission for a period of three and half years (2013-2017).



About the Project

In order to strengthen the bi-regional partnership in Science, Technology and Innovation, ERANet-LAC will implement two joint calls seeking to coordinate and cluster research programmes. Furthermore, the project will mutually open research infrastructures and coordinate and open innovation programmes.

ERANet-LAC will lay a special focus on the innovation dimension. It will seek to involve European and Latin American innovation agencies in the joint activities as well as in trust-building actions.

The joint activities carried out will be evaluated and function as a basis for a road map to be incorporated in a so-called EU-CELAC Platform for Funding Agencies. This funding platform will serve as information and communication platform and offer substantial guidelines as well as online working space to facilitate the development of future concrete bi-regional joint initiatives.

The main activities of ERANet-LAC:

- Promotion of mutual opening and coordination of existing programmes, infrastructures and cooperation.
- Implementation of 2 Joint Calls: The first one will be launched approximately in the end of 2014 and the second one in the end of 2015.
- Coordination of a consultation process to inform funding agencies and research institutions from both regions about the joint actions.
- Building a platform for EU and CELAC funding agencies.

News and calls



Horizon 2020 - Open to the World event for Latin American and Caribbean countries

On October 23rd the Commission organised a lunch event addressed to the diplomatic corps of countries of Latin-America and the Caribbean based in Brussels. The event was well attended with 21 countries represented. Ms Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation at DG RTD, opened the meeting followed by an address from His Excellency Mr Istvan Alfaro Solano, Ambassador of Costa Rica, the current

CELAC presidency. The event was instrumental in raising awareness of opportunities for researchers and institutions from the CELAC countries to participate in Horizon 2020 projects.

For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?pg=latin-america-carib>



Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation, DG Research and Innovation

LEADERSHIP Survey: The Complete Report on ICT Research and Innovation Priorities in Latin America

As a result of the LEADERSHIP survey conducted few months ago, the project has identified ICT R&I priorities in Latin America along with most suitable areas for EU-LAC cooperation in Horizon 2020. Findings of the survey underline the relevance of ICT for societal challenges in Latin America, such as ICT for inclusion, efficient energy and health.

The data also indicates that other ICT priorities are related to Future Internet, content technologies and cybersecurity.

The complete report on LEADERSHIP survey results is available here: <http://www.leadershipproject.eu/>



Latin America-Europe ICT Research & Innovation partnership

EU-LAC Health Activities: Organization of the Implementation Conference



The next EU-LAC Health workshop will be held in Brussels on June 2015.

This Conference will have the following major objectives:

- Present the EU-LAC health research roadmap.
- Discuss actions to be taken to in the short-medium and long term

to promote and consolidate cooperative health research in the EU-LAC region.

- Approval of the Proposal to establish a Coordination Body of Health Research as well as a High-Level Forum for Health Research Coordination.
- Serve as a gathering point for all members of the EU-LAC health research community.

More information will be available soon on the Project website: <http://eulachealth.eu/>

News and calls

CARICOM Adopts 10 Point Plan to “Stop Ebola There and Here”



Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) met in special session in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 4 November, 2014, for deliberations on the two current public health challenges facing the Community: Ebola Virus Disease (EVD); and the Chikungunya outbreak.

Heads of Government expressed considerable concern, not just in relation to the possible health impact of the Ebola Virus Disease, but also about the disruption a single case could cause in the economic and social life in our Region. The Heads of Government emphasized that the responses to the diseases must be a Community effort. No Member State of CARICOM must battle these public health challenges on its own.

The Community's responses to the two

public health challenges are being coordinated by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

The Meeting accepted that the likelihood of penetration of the Ebola Virus Disease in the Region is low, based on the low level of traffic from affected areas. While there have been no reported cases of EVD in the Region, it urged the strengthening of the Regional Public Health capacity to confront the possibility of an outbreak of Ebola and any other future public health challenge(s).

The Meeting endorsed the measures taken so far by CARPHA, the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat and the Government of Cuba, to establish and strengthen Regional capabilities to confront Ebola.

With regard Chikungunya, the first known cases in the Americas were on the island of St. Martin/Sint Maarten in December 2013. CARPHA predicted wides-

pread transmission bearing in mind the Caribbean's susceptible population, abundant *Aedes aegypti* vector mosquitos and frequent travel. Soon afterward, additional cases were reported in other countries in the Caribbean Region and the disease spread at the rate of one country every one to two weeks. As of 27 October, 2014, cases of Chik-V had confirmed in 23 of 24 CARPHA Member States (CMS).

Ministries of Health and CARPHA, with the collaboration of PAHO/WHO, and partners such as the US Centres for Disease Control (CDC) and French Institute Pasteur, have been working assiduously to control the epidemic. However, spread has continued with temporary economic disruption in some countries.

Further information: <http://carpha.org/articles/ID/38/10-Point-Plan-to-Stop-Ebola-There-and-Here>

*Article written by Victoria C. Taylor

The 10 -Point Plan of Action to Stop Ebola There and Here are:

- Strengthen effective, coordinated measures at ports of entry to prevent Ebola from entering our Community, including harmonising travel restrictions;
- strengthen health systems including training, equipment, laboratories and containment and enlist the participation of Airlines in the Region in transporting specimens and response teams;
- create a Regional Rapid Response Team (Carib REACT) able to reach any Member State in twenty - four (24) hours to support the national response team to contain/stop na outbreak early on;
- launch na intensive public education

campaign for citizens of the Region, visitors and those outside;

- organize a comprehensive resource mobilisation effort including a possible Stop Ebola There and Here (SETH) Fund, to which governments, citizens and businesses here and abroad may donate;
- finalize and implemente the harmonised regional operational response plan by end - November, coordinated with national response plans;
- participate in capacity-building efforts at the global and regional levels to gain experience for our benefit;
- establish a Regional Coordinating Mechanism on Ebola (RCME) with CARPHA as Chair, including the CARICOM and OECS Secretariats, IMPACS, CDEMA and

invitig Cuba to partipate ,The RCME will report to the Lead Head of Government on Health, the Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, with the immediate responsibility to develop a comprehensive Regional Strategy to address Ebola preparedness in collaboration with PAHO/WHO;

- invite PAHO/WHO, the United Nations, other development partners and contributors to a meeting whitin one month to expand the effectiveness of our collective response;
- review and reinforce the effectiveness of these measures as implemented, at the Intersessional Meeting of Conference in February 2015, and again at the Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Governement in July 2015.

Relevant Events

2nd HBP Education Workshop: "Future Medicine" - Lausanne, Switzerland on March 15th to 18th, 2015

Brain diseases, neurological and psychiatric disorders are becoming a significant burden to society. Availability of clinical, genomic, proteomic and neuroimaging data combined with recent advances in ICT, data mining and computational modeling makes it possible to extract unique biological signatures of diseases from multi-level description of the brain. Future Medicine will build on biological signatures of diseases rather

than symptom descriptions for diagnosis, more accurate prognosis, new types of drug Discovery pathways, new treatments and personalized medicine.

The aim of the second Human Brain Project Education Workshop is to introduce the new concept of biological signature of diseases for Future Medicine and the methods for creating multi-level biological models of brain diseases.

For more information: <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu>



Human Brain Project

The 9th Conference on Global Health and Vaccination Research - Oslo, Norway on March 17th to 18th, 2015

The 9th Conference on Global Health and Vaccination Research will take place at Hotel Clarion in Oslo 17-18 March 2015. The host of this year's conference is the Interfaculty research programme - LEVE (Livelihoods in developing countries) at the University of Oslo. There will be a student conference at the University of Oslo 16 March.

The working title of the conference is

"Everywhere but Nowhere: Women and Children's rights to health Post 2015" The working title of the conference is "Everywhere but Nowhere: Women and Children's rights to health Post 2015". The title of the conference is How can research inform the post-2015 agenda for women's and children's health and rights? and will present Norwegian and international research on Women and Children's Health and Rights.

See: http://www.forskningsradet.no/prognett-globvac/Home_page/1224697869238



UiO : Leve

60th Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference, Grenada, Trinidad on April 23rd to April 25th, 2015

The 60th Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference will be held in Grenada from April 23rd to April 25th, 2015.

The theme for 2015 is **Violence and Injuries: Na Urgent Public Health and Development Issue**. However, the conference will also accept quality research papers in all priority health areas (e.g NCD, HIV, Environmental Health, Health Systems, etc.).

Violence and Injuries comprise topics

such as intentional and unintentional injuries including interpersonal and domestic violence, sexual abuse, suicide; mental health; risk factors including drug and alcohol use/misuse; their health and socioeconomic consequences; preventive efforts and strategies; etc.

For more information: <http://carpha.org/>



CARPHA

Related Projects



Equity LA II is a research project whose objective is to evaluate the effectiveness of different care integration strategies in improving coordination and quality of

care in Integrated Health Care Networks (IHN) in Latin America. Equity-LA II builds upon the results of Equity-LA, which explored access to the care continuum and care coordination in IHN in Colombia and Brazil. Equity-LA II incorporates four additional countries with different types of health care sys-

tems: Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay. Equity-LA II will generate evidence for the formulation of policies that improve care integration in the Latin American countries.

More information on project website: <http://www.equity-la.eu/es/>



ALCUE NET supports the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean (EU-CELAC) Policy Dialogue process on S&T & the implementation of the Joint Initiative

for Research and Innovation during 2013-2017, reflecting the suggestions and recommendations of the Senior Officials Meetings

ALCUE NET aims to establish a common platform for EU-CELAC policy makers, research institutions and the private sector.

ALCUE NET aims at strengthening and expanding the National Contact Points in Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as engaging with Alumni networks, other INCO-NETs and related thematic biregional projects.

More information: <http://alcuenet.eu/>



Eucarinet (Strengthening the Sustainable Scientific Cooperation between Euro-

pe and the Caribbean). The EUCARINET project will promote and support the setting up of a permanent and sustainable multi-stakeholder co-ordination and dialogue, bringing together the key EU and Caribbean policy makers and programme managers, representatives of

universities, research institutions, the private sector – with a special emphasis on SME's – as well as other representatives of civil society.

More information on project website: <http://www.eucarinet.eu/>



tion between European Union and Central America). The project aims at supporting the bi-regional dialogue

ENLACE
Enhancing Scientific Cooperation

between the EU and the Central America Countries and includes a set of activities to enhance the networking among EU and Central America researchers through the organization of S&T dialogues, to identify research priorities of mutual interest and to raise awareness

on FP7 in Central America mainly by setting up the network of FP7 National Contact Point in Central America.

More information on project website: <http://www.enlace-project.eu/es/index.aspx>



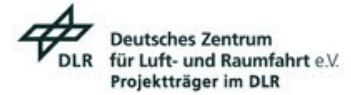
CEST+I The Chile-EU Science, Technology and Innovation Initiative (CEST+I) is a bilateral project to promote science, technology and innovation cooperation between the European Union, its member states and associated countri-

es, and Chile. The project thereby contributes to the implementation of the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI) between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union. The specific objectives of the project are to develop policy dialogue on science and technology between the EU and Chile, to promote the creation of networks and the development of joint research projects, and to disseminate

opportunities for cooperation between Chile and the EU. The project is coordinated by the Chilean National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) in collaboration with DLR(Germany), IDOM (Spain) and IRD (France).

More information on project website: <http://www.sti-cooperation.cl/>

EU-LAC Health Partners



EU-LAC Health Coordination

Project Coordinator: Rafael de Andrés

eulachealth@isciii.es

www.eulachealth.eu

©The newsletter was created by Fiocruz Center for Global Health

Fiocruz— Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Brazil)

Miryam Minayo
Cristiane Quental
Isis Pillar Cazumbá
Isabella Carvalho
E-mail: eulac@fiocruz.br



EU-LAC Health is funded by European Commission in the "Health" Programme. GA 281459