



Platform of bioeconomy ERA-NET Actions

**Network of the European Union, Latin America
and the Caribbean Countries on
Joint Innovation and Research Activities**

Project period: October 2013 – March 2017

PLATFORM of Bioeconomy, ERA-NET Actions

Annual Event 2015, Berlin, 10-11 September 2015
Marianne Vaske, DLR

ERANet-LAC: FACTS

Consortium:

18 partners from 16 EU-CELAC* partner countries:

EU: Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey

LAC: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay

Project funded by the European Commission (FP7, 2.5 Mio Euro)

Project duration:

October 2013 – March 2017

* Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños

ERANet-LAC: FACTS

General objectives:

Supporting the implementation of the **Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation JIRI** and strengthening the bi-regional partnership in Science, Technology and Innovation by planning and implementing concrete joint activities and by establishing an innovative and sustainable framework for future bi-regional joint activities.

Activities:

- Implementing two **Joint Calls**;
- Promoting **mutual opening and coordination** of existing research programmes, infrastructures and innovation programmes (through coordinated joint actions);
- Coordinating a **consultation process** to inform funding agencies and research institutions from both regions about the joint actions;
- Building an **information and communication platform** for EU and CELAC funding agencies.

ERANet-LAC 1st Joint Call

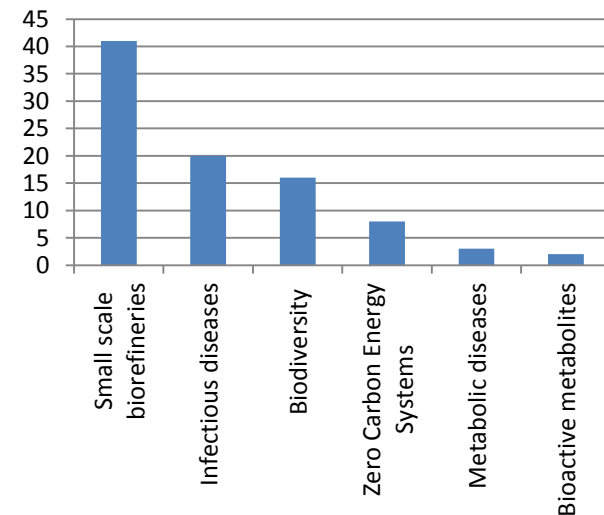
- **Topic recommendations:** Were prepared by the five thematic Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) working groups and endorsed by the EU-CELAC SOM. In the development of the topic recommendations, the SOM working groups were supported by the projects ALCUE NET and EU-LAC Health.
- **Topics:** For the 1st joint call, the participating funding agencies selected 6 topics in the thematic fields **Energy, Bioeconomy, Biodiversity/Climate Change, Health.**
- **Open:** September 16th – November 27th 2014
- **Participating funding agencies:** 20 partners from 17 EU-CELAC countries
- **Total commitment:** 11.4 million Euros

ERANet-LAC 1st Joint Call

Topics and participation

- The five thematic SOM* working groups (scientists from both regions) formulated 50 topics in the areas **Bioeconomy, Health, Biodiversity/ Climate, Energy and ICT.**
- The topics were endorsed by the EU-CELAC SOM in April 2014.
- The funding organizations selected six topics 1st Joint Call.
- 90 proposals were submitted, 61 of them were eligible for funding.

- Small scale self-sustainable biorefineries : 41
- Prevention infectious diseases & well-being : 20
- Biodiversity assessment and monitoring: 16
- Towards Zero Carbon Energy Systems: 8
- Interventions metabolic & cardiovascular diseases: 3
- Screening bioactive metabolites & enzymes: 2

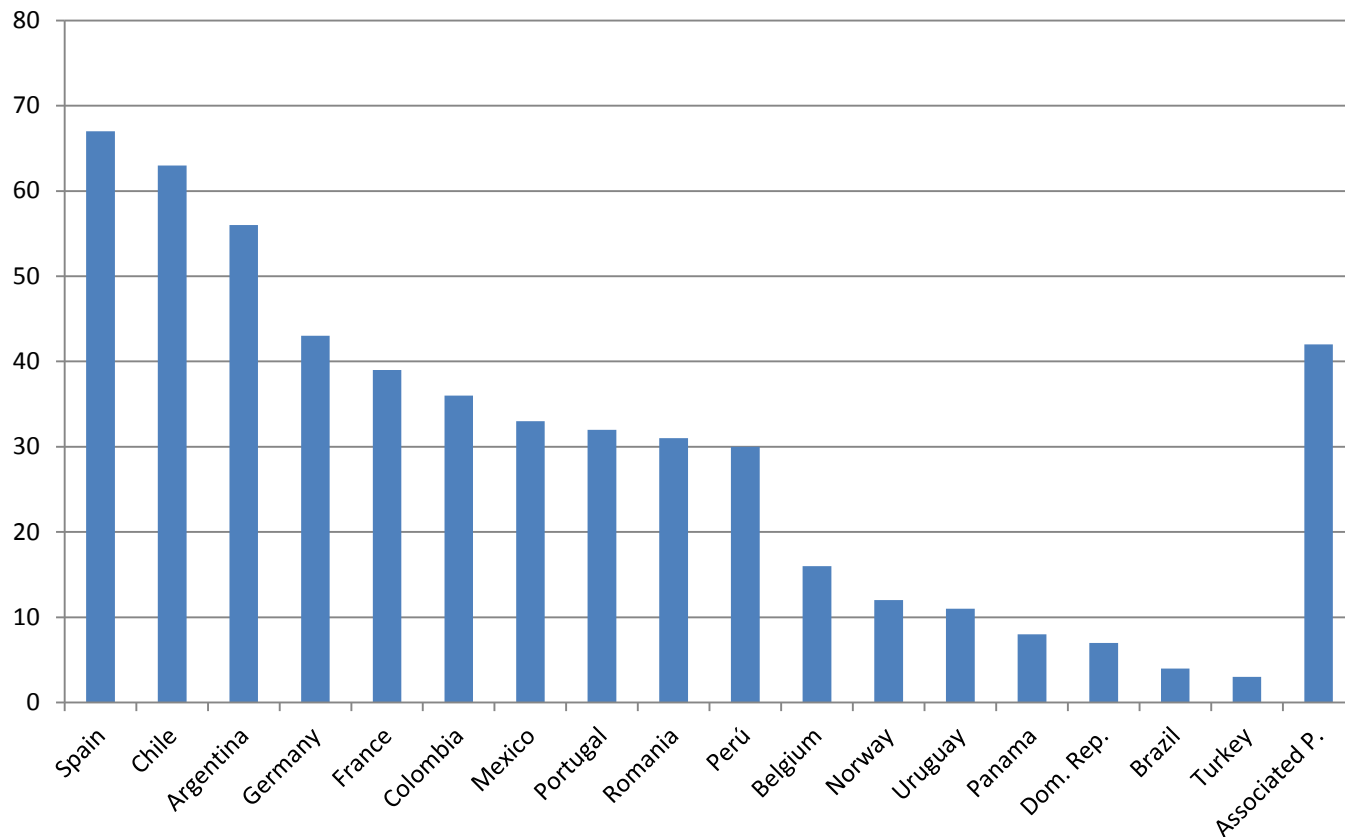


* SOM: Senior Officials meeting

ERANet-LAC 1st Joint Call

Participation by country

533 Institutes from 17 countries participated in total.



ERANet-LAC Joint Call: Experiences

Alignment of ERANet-LAC Partners:

- In the start-phase of the ERANet-LAC project: Collection and analysis of expectations and experiences of partners.

Integration of new Funding Organizations with less or without international experience:

- Online surveys and personal meetings.

Consultation process:

- For funding and innovation agencies in order to enhance their involvement in the joint activities of the project.

ERANet-LAC Joint Call: Lessons Learnt

- **Dissemination**

Some of the smaller partner countries with little international experience lack dissemination channels on national level for the call publication and thus cannot guarantee that the call text reaches all relevant national institutes and researchers on time.

- **Lesson learnt: Make the partners concerned attentive to the importance of guaranteeing a wide dissemination of the call in their country / region.**

- **Visibility of the National Funding Regulations**

Some 30 % of the submitted proposals were considered “not eligible” as they did not respond correctly to the National Funding Regulations. Most of the ineligible proposals resulted from not having read the regulations carefully.

- **Lesson learnt: Include a “short version” of the National Funding Rules in the call text.**

ERANet-LAC 1st Joint Call: Lessons Learnt

- **Formal Correctness of the Proposals**

- In order to avoid an excessive number of not eligible (formally incorrect) proposals, set up a one-week correction phase for formal failures in the proposals.

- **Budget Commitments**

In some cases, the allocated budgets are very much disproportionate to the number of proposals that were ranked. I.e. one or two proposals consume the entire budget of a partner. Possible solutions:

- Fix a maximum funding amount per proposal in the national call texts;
- Fix a minimum number of proposals that must be funded in the call notwithstanding the funding amount given in each project:
- Set up a fund to which each of the partners contributes a certain sum (amounts to be defined). This fund will balance the funding gaps.

ERANet-LAC 2nd Joint Call

Potential participation in the 2nd joint call

- Most of the funding organizations from the 1st Joint Call already now confirmed their interest in participate in the 2nd Joint Call.
- Since 1,5 years the ERANet-LAC partners are coordinating a consultation process for funding organizations in order to foster the incorporation of further partners from both regions. So far, funding organizations from the following countries signaled interest in the 2nd Joint Call:

Latin-America: Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Trinidad & Tobago

Europe: Denmark, Finland, Holland, Italy, Kroatia, Latvia, Austria, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Check Republic, Hungary.

ERANet-LAC 2nd Joint Call

Launch of 2nd joint call: December 2015 to end of February 2016

Topics:

- The topics from the pool of topics developed in 2014 and endorsed by the EU-CELAC SOM, will be considered for the 2nd joint call, as well.
- A selection of 26 topic proposals is presently presented to the interested funding organizations.
- The funding organizations will decide at the end of September about the topics they wish to fund and on the budgets they will allocate to each of the topics.

The time schedule, the selected topics and the participating countries will be published at www.eranet-lac.eu in the beginning of October 2015.

Budget:

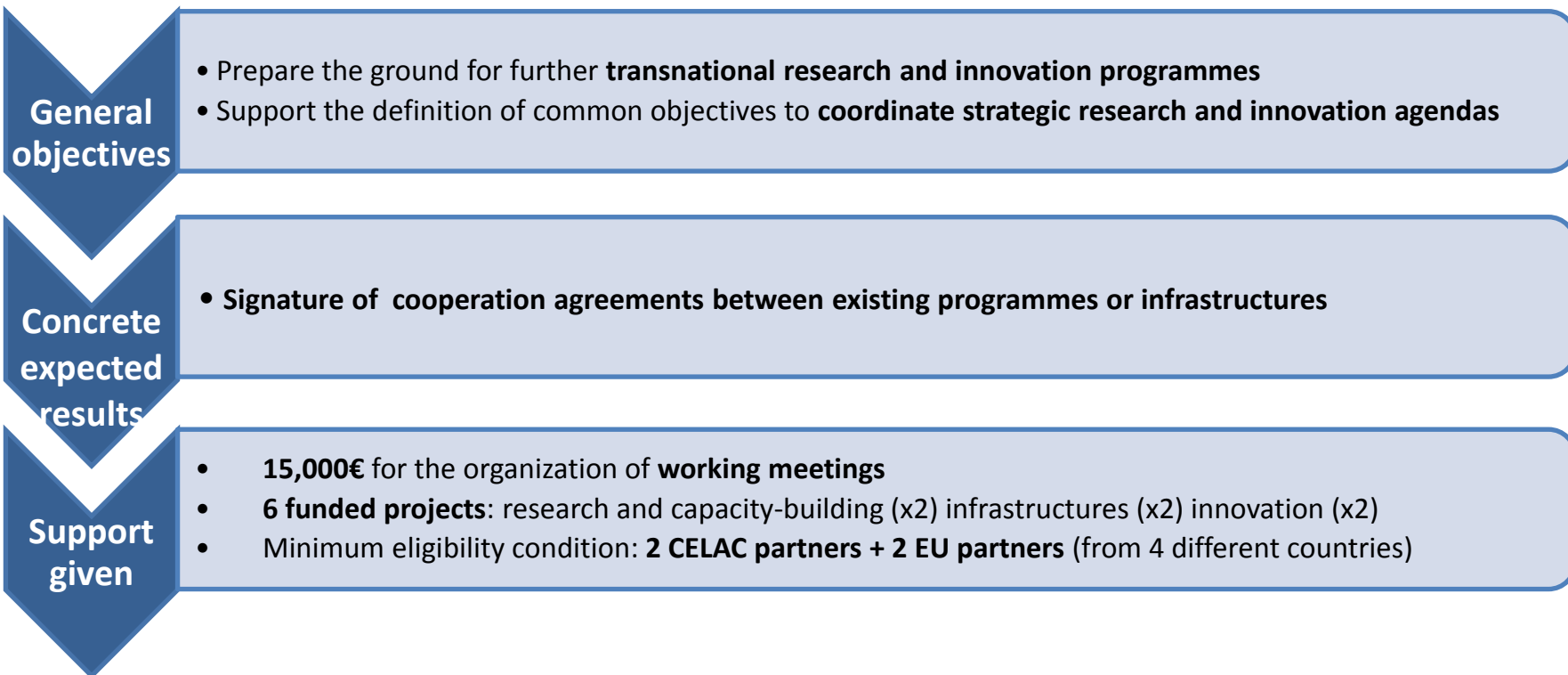
The ERANet-LAC calls employ the „Common Virtual Pot“ mode, i.e. each funding organization finances its own expenses and decides on the budget to be allocated.

Who can participate:

Funding organizations from the European, Latin-American and Caribbean countries that wish to start new, sustainable and multilateral research cooperation between researchers from EU, Latin-American and Caribbean countries.

2nd Joint Activity: the Pilot Coordination Actions

Call for Expression of Interest launched in 2014 (June – October)



Bioeconomy in Latin-America / Caribbean

R&I Capacities vary according to region:

Brazil, Argentina, Chile represent greatest institutional R&I capacity in LAC.

Re Biofuels:

- BR / AR have most significant R&I development, qualified staff, regulatory framework, however not yet reached the developed countries level regarding researchers' critical mass, patents, production
- AR is world leader in the production of biofuels (on soya basis)
- CH, CO, MX, PE are presently trying to consolidate the Biofuel's sector.

Re Biotechnology:

- AR, CL and BR are progressing constantly: Clear and evolving regulatory framework ; leader in genetically modified crops production in LAC (more than 55 mio harvested ha)
- AR and BR compete to become the strongest Biotech-Nation in Latin-Amerika. AR is the 3rd biggest producer of genetically modified plants (24.4 ha cultivated area = more than BR and US)
- In medical biotec production of vaccines, biological generic substances and biosimilars have great importance.

Source: ALCUE-KBBE, Bioeconomy Working paper 2013-03

Bioeconomy in Latin-America / Caribbean

Re Innovation:

BR, AR, MX are industry leaders

BO, EC, PA and Central America trail behind

Brazil being the unquestionable leader acts as catalyst for continent-wide initiatives

Re Figures on Agricultural Research:

60 % from the total resources invested LAC on R&I come from 2 countries: BR, MX

70 % of all LAC researchers come from BR, MX and AR

80 % of scientific articles in the LAC countries are held by BR, AR and MX

Source: ALCUE-KBBE, Bioeconomy Working paper 2013-03

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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www.eranet-lac.eu

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