



# **ERANET-LAC STRATEGIC ROADMAP FOR JOINT ACTIVITIES**

## **Preliminary Version May 2017**

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ERANet-LAC: Network of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean Countries on Joint Innovation and Research Activities

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## **1. Introduction**

The “Network of the European Union (EU), Latin-America and the Caribbean Countries (LAC) on Joint Innovation and Research Activities”, ERANet-LAC (10/2013 – 03/2017) has contributed to fostering the bi-regional cooperation in research and innovation by organizing and implementing concrete joint activities and by creating a sustainable framework for future bi-regional joint activities with both European and Latin-American / Caribbean research and innovation funding agencies and programme owners.

With the present document, ERANet-LAC has developed a roadmap describing concrete steps for the coordination and realization of such joint activities among research and innovation funding agencies in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the EU, beyond the lifetime of the ERANet-LAC. To secure a smooth and sustainable cooperation, this roadmap also includes aspects on lessons learnt and best practices achieved in coordination actions, joint calls or in a staff exchange programme. In addition it examines the process of integrating new partner countries, the identification and selection process of thematic areas and topics and successful ways of trust building among a highly heterogeneous group of international partners.

As the European Commission granted a project extension of ERANet-LAC for another nine month, the present document is a preliminary version. The project extension will mainly be used to consolidate the outcomes achieved in the frame of ERANet-LAC and to develop further joint activities on the basis of the experiences and lessons learnt within the project. The final version of the roadmap will be based on the outcomes to be achieved in the upcoming nine months and presented in the beginning of 2018.

### **1.1 Background**

The bi-regional dialogue on Science, Technology and Development between the European Union and Latin American and Caribbean countries was initiated by the EU-LAC summit in Rio in 1999 and since then has been developed and consolidated considerably on the political as well as on the operational level.

Since 2010 the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is the EU’s counterpart for the bi-regional partnership process. In order to strengthen relations between both regions, EU-CELAC summits, where political leaders from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean meet, are organized approximately every two years. These summits are the main fora for dialogue and cooperation between both regions.

At the “VI European Union–Latin America and Caribbean Summit” in Madrid in 2010<sup>1</sup>, the “Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012 - Towards a new stage in the bi-regional partnership: innovation and technology for sustainable development and social inclusion” was adopted. The Action Plan mainly aimed at designing bi-regional cooperation programmes and initiatives and also endorsed the development and implementation of a Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI). The mandate of the JIRI is, among others, to “establish regular bi-regional dialogue on science, research, technology and innovation to consolidate

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<sup>1</sup> 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” MADRID ACTION PLAN 2010-2012. [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/114540.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/114540.pdf)

EU-LAC cooperation and to update common priorities, encourage mutual policy learning and ensure the proper implementation and effectiveness of cooperation instruments”.

The Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) with EU-CELAC representatives was established as a regular bi-regional dialogue on Research & Innovation (R&I) to consolidate EU-CELAC cooperation under the JIRI. Objectives of the SOM are, among others, updating common priorities, encouraging mutual policy learning and ensuring the proper implementation and effectiveness of cooperation instruments through biannual Action Plans. At the EU-LAC S&T Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Brussels in March 2011 a roadmap to implement the JIRI was adopted. In order to focus on the joint actions thematically, four SOM working groups were established to mobilise stakeholders on priority areas of mutual interest: Biodiversity/Climate Change, Bioeconomy, Energy and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). At a later stage a working group on Health was added.

In this context **ERANet-LAC** was launched in October 2013 to support the aforementioned implementation process of the JIRI, to develop and coordinate concrete joint activities and thus to pave the way for bi-regional long-term initiatives.

The main achievements and outcomes of the activities realized in the frame of ERANet-LAC can be summed up as follows:

- Inclusion of interested EU and LAC funding agencies and programme owners, raising their awareness on the ERA-Net scheme and the added value of bi-regional cooperation at programme level.
- Implementation of coordination actions to cluster funding agencies with the aim to coordinate research and innovation programmes and mutually opening up infrastructures.
- Implementation of two joint calls, developing a tailored EU-CELAC coordination and evaluation process.
- Involvement of less experienced and non-partner funding agencies promoting mutual learning of best practices and expertise.
- Constitution of a sustainable network of research and innovation funding agencies willing to cooperate beyond the life time of the project.

## 1.2 Vision and Mission

The **vision** of the present roadmap is to serve as a guide for future cooperation activities and as a reference point for developing and facilitating EU-CELAC cooperation in research, development and innovation. It might further contribute to supporting the policy dialogue and the implementation of public policies deriving from the EU-CELAC Senior Official Meetings.

The **mission** of this EU-CELAC roadmap is to implement excellent collaborative research and innovation actions in order to enhance common societal challenges defined by policy makers and stakeholders from the EU-CELAC regions.

## 2. Projects that promoted EU-CELAC Political Dialogue

### 2.1 EU-CELAC Projects 2006 – 2012

The process of coordinating research cooperation among EU Member States and Latin American countries and thus contributing to strengthen the impact of their national programmes on international cooperation in science and technology (S&T) with Latin America already started in 2006 with the following projects:

**EULANEST** (European - Latin American Network for Science and Technology) was a project funded by ERA-Net scheme of the European Union FP6 (2006-2010). EULANEST prepared its partners towards the implementation and development of a first transnational joint call and thus intended to support a more coherent approach of the EU towards scientific cooperation with emerging Latin American countries, like Chile, Argentina or Brazil. It was a precursor project and laid the ground for ERANet-LAC.

**EULARINET** (European Union - Latin American Research and Innovation NETworks) (FP7 INCO-Net 2008-2012) intended to strengthen the bi-regional dialogue on S&T between EU Member States (MS), Associated States (AS) and Latin American Partner Countries (LAPC) at policy, programme and institutional level: It originated from the agreed common vision for S&T cooperation between Latin America (LA) and the EU<sup>2</sup>. EULARINET established a network between European and LA stakeholders (research entities, universities, industry, policy-makers, programme managers and civil society), as well as multidisciplinary partnerships identifying priorities of mutual interest and benefit for both regions and as such can be considered the precursor project for ALCUE NET (see below).

### 2.2 EU-CELAC Projects from 2013 to date

**ALCUE NET** - Latin America, Caribbean and European Union Network on Research and Innovation (2013 – 2017)<sup>3</sup> can be considered in a certain way as the successor of EULARINET. Both, ERANet-LAC and ALCUE NET find their roots in the "Madrid Action Plan 2010-2014. ALCUE NET supports the Policy Dialogue process on STI to consolidate EU-CELAC cooperation by contributing to the implementation of the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI) in the Senior Officials Meetings (SOM). The project contributed to the definition and implementation of joint strategic agendas for research, development and innovation focusing on the thematic areas discussed under the JIRI: Energy; Information + Communication Technology; Bioeconomy; Biodiversity & Climate Change. Furthermore, the project established a technical secretariat to support the SOM. The orientation of both, ALCUE NET and ERANet-LAC, to the thematic areas discussed under the JIRI (ICT, biodiversity /climate change, energy, bioeconomy and health) lead to close coordination between both projects and thus to a strong mutual support for identifying topics for joint calls and for leveraging funding and implementing the joint activities.

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<sup>2</sup> This common vision evolved during the Summits in Rio de Janeiro in June 1999, Madrid in May 2002 and the Guadalajara Summit in May 2004 that ended with the Guadalajara Declaration on the creation of an EU-LA Knowledge Area.

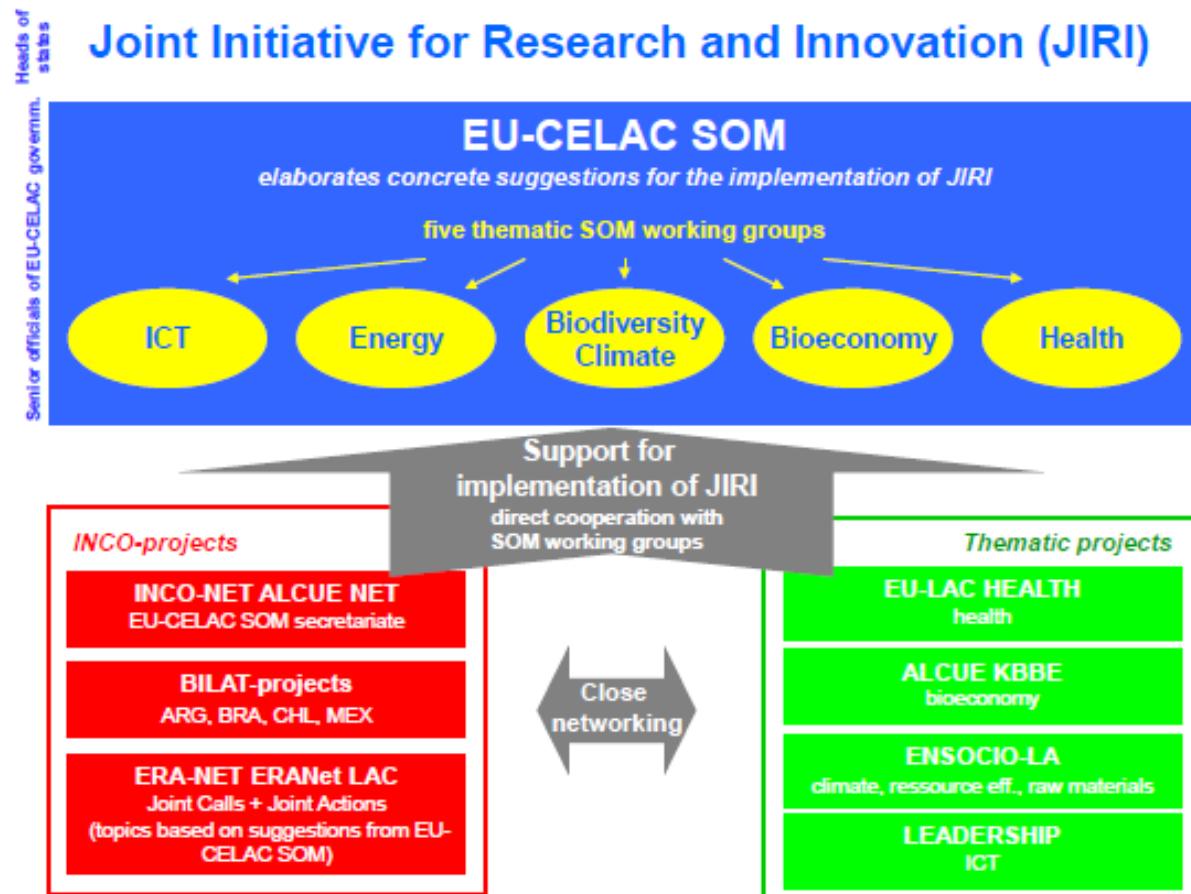
<sup>3</sup> ALCUE NET: "Latin America, Caribbean and European Union Network on Research and Innovation": A four and a half year project funded by the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the European Union.

<sup>4</sup> [http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/la/summits/docs/madrid\\_action\\_plan\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/la/summits/docs/madrid_action_plan_en.pdf)

**NOTE:** ALCUE NET in its function as SOM Technical Secretariat developed a concept note that was presented at the SOM which took place in March 2017 in Brussels. This document summarizes the efforts undertaken by the project and main recommendations from relevant bi-regional initiatives well as the work realized within each of the SOM Working Groups to further promote the process towards the Common Research Area.<sup>5</sup>

### 2.3 Further projects

EU-LAC Health, ALCUE KBBE (bioeconomy), ENSOCIO LA (environment) and LEADERSHIP (ICT) as well as the BILAT projects with Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico and others gave important thematic input to ERANet-LAC and ALCUE NET (see graphic below) and thus considerably contributed to developing the groundwork for the present document.



<sup>5</sup> Concept note prepared by ALCUE NET in its function as SOM Technical Secretariat for the SOM that took place in March 2017 in Brussels. For full document: [https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/alcue\\_net-concept\\_note-eu\\_celac\\_som\\_2017.pdf](https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/alcue_net-concept_note-eu_celac_som_2017.pdf)

### **EXCURSION: CELAC National Contact Point Network**

In the framework of ALCUE NET, a CELAC NCP Network was established with the objective to promote and increase the participation of academia, companies and institutions in the Horizon 2020 Program and thus to legitimate access opportunities for the different countries of the region, articulating actions and synergies with the Interest Group, as an strategic bi-regional cooperation tool. The CELAC NCP Network is a platform of contact points in Latin America and the Caribbean which strives to provide information regarding cooperation opportunities, calls for the creation of consortia and projects, as well as seminars, conferences and Info Days on Horizon 2020. It promotes the participation of CELAC NCPs in training activities organized by the European Commission and other relevant actors, and pursues to establish long-term twinning and partnering schemes between EU NCPs and CELAC NCPs. The Network also aims at establishing a specific platform for CELAC NCPs in order to allow an efficient exchange of best practices and to engage with their European counterparts in priority areas of common interest. The objective is to create a sustainable CELAC NCP Network for the strengthening of the National and Thematic Contact Points for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Horizon 2020 Programme.

CELAC Coordination: Ministry of Education and Culture (Uruguay) with the collaboration of the National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation (Panama). European Coordination: DLR Project Management Agency (Germany) and MINECO (Spain). Advisory Board: All CELAC countries with H2020 National Coordinator nomination, project representatives, regional and bi-regional initiatives. The authorities of Latin American and Caribbean countries as well as the European countries are invited to participate in the joint activities that will be held within the framework of the LAC Network (see footnote 5).

**Future activities shall take into consideration the CELAC NCP, its members and its expertise and actively realize and exploit synergies.**

## **3. EU-CELAC Organizations interested in future joint activities**

### **3.1 Consultation Process**

ERANet-LAC has put special emphasis on trust building, transparency and mutual understanding, being aware that this is the key to sustainability and lasting impact: Over its entire life-time, ERANet-LAC realized a consultation process and thus actively promoted the involvement of research and innovation funding agencies from both regions (within and outside the project consortium). Their participation in the joint activities gave them the opportunity for mutual learning and developing common governing principles on joint issues such as evaluation, general procedures or ethics.

**To build a firm ground for future activities, on the basis of this intense process two initiatives were successfully established in the frame of ERANet-LAC: EU-CELAC Interest Group for Future bi-regional STI Cooperation and EU-CELAC Platform for Funding Agencies.**

### **3.2 EU-CELAC Interest Group for future bi-regional STI cooperation (EU-CELAC IG)**

The EU-CELAC IG is a group of funding agencies from CELAC, EU Member States and Associated Countries wishing to build up on ERANet-LAC and continue cooperating in bi-regional science, technology and innovation (STI) collaboration following the ERANet-LAC project (April 2017). Its partners were identified through the above mentioned ERANet-LAC consultation process and thoroughly familiarized with the joint activities realized in the frame of ERANet-LAC and the objectives of the Interest Group.

The main objective of the EU-CELAC IG is to organize joint actions, such as joint calls or coordination actions, as well as to enhance networking and trust building activities in order to support the successful implementation of future joint actions. In doing so, the Interest Group strives to support the implementation of the Common EU-CELAC Research Area and to create further added value to its three pillars: Mobility of Researchers; International outreach of Research Infrastructures; Increased thematic cooperation to address global challenges.

#### **3.2.1 Physical support**

During the first months of its life-time (April 2017 to December 2017), the EU-CELAC IG will be coordinated by ERANet-LAC which has been extended until December 2017. Following this initiation and consolidation period, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, BMBF, and the Argentinean Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, MINCyT, offered to jointly coordinate the 2nd and 3rd year of the IG, i.e. to host the first meetings and to support the implementation of the first joint funding actions.

Thus, in close coordination with the EU-CELAC Interest Group, the platform will promote bi-regional STI collaboration and concretely support the implementation of future joint activities.

#### **3.2.2 Prospect**

In the EU-CELAC funding agencies meeting that took place in parallel with the SOM 2017 in Brussels, the EU-CELAC IG was launched. At this occasion a process of defining priority topics and instruments of common interest was initiated, taking the SOM activities and suggestions of the participating funding agencies into consideration. The outcomes of this process shall be the ground for the upcoming joint activities.

Funding agencies participating in future joint activities can decide individually and in a flexible way on which activities and themes they want to get involved in (variable geometry). The EU-CELAC IG intends to meet yearly, alternately in the EU or CELAC.

The interested partners, in April 2017, started planning a provisional time-line for an upcoming third EU-CELAC joint call 2018/2019 (see below page 16).

The project ALCUE NET, which is supporting the SOM thematic working groups in defining priority areas and topics and serving as technical secretariat to the SOM will end in 2017. The future governance structure and the thematic support mechanisms to the EU-CELAC SOM will be discussed at the next SOM meeting in autumn 2017. The resulting changes in the political process shall be reviewed by the EU-CELAC IG and the thematic identification process shall be adapted accordingly thereafter.

#### **4. EU-CELAC Funding Agencies Platform**

In parallel to the EU-CELAC IG, the EU-CELAC platform for Funding Agencies was developed, implemented and promoted ([www.eucelac-platform.eu](http://www.eucelac-platform.eu)). It was launched together with the EU-CELAC IG in March 2017. The platform presents EU-CELAC funding agencies that are interested in enhancing long-term cooperation beyond EU funding and committed to organizing and financing bi-regional joint activities. All of them uploaded their individual profiles revealing concrete information specific demands, interests and backgrounds in STI cooperation as well as with contact persons and contact data.

##### **European funding agencies presented in the EU-CELAC platform for funding agencies:<sup>6</sup>**

1. Austria	Austrian Research Promotion Agency
2. Belgium	Fund for Scientific Research
3. Belgium	Belgian Federal Science Policy Office
4. Czech Republic	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
5. Croatia	Ministry of Science and Education
6. Finland	Academy of Finland
7. Germany	AiF Projekt GmbH
8. Germany	Federal Ministry of Education Research
9. Italy	Ministry of Health
10. Italy	National Research Council
11. Netherlands	Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
12. Norway	The Research Council of Norway
13. Poland	The National Center for Research and Development
14. Portugal	Foundation of Science and Technology
15. Spain	Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness
16. Turkey	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey

##### **Latin-American/Caribbean funding agencies presented in the EU-CELAC platform for funding agencies:<sup>7</sup>**

1. Argentina	Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation
2. Barbados	Caribbean Science Foundation
3. Bolivia	Ministry of Education - Viceministry of Science and Technology
4. Brazil	National Council for Scientific and Technological Development
5. Brazil	Sao Paulo Research Foundation
6. Chile	National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research
7. Colombia	Administrative Department for Science, Technology and Innovation
8. Dominican Rep.	Republic Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology
9. Ecuador	Secretariat for Higher Education, Science, Tech. and Innovation
10. Guatemala	National Secretariat of Science and Technology
11. Mexico	National Council for Science and Technology

<sup>6</sup> Except Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia and the Netherlands all organizations that are members of the funding agencies platform have also joined the EU-CELAC Interest Group.

<sup>7</sup> Other countries such as El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica expressed their interest to participate, as well. It is planned to formally include them in the before the end of 2017.

12. Panama	National Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation
13. Peru	National Council of Science, Technology + Techn. Innovation
14. Trinidad+Tob.	Nat. Inst. of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
15. Uruguay	National Research and Innovation Agency

## 4.1 Technical support

The EU-CELAC platform for Funding Agencies not only presents those organizations that are committed to participating in joint activities, but it also will technically facilitate and enhance the development of future joint initiatives by providing

- recommendations elaborated through the experiences made in the frame of ERANet-LAC (e.g. best practice examples, barriers or lessons learnt),
- an interactive information and communication platform, offering an online partnering tool to develop future concrete joint initiatives. As soon as the first joint activities will be organized, it will be linked to the CYTED Multicall Tool and support the implementation and administration of future joint calls,
- relevant call documents that were developed in the ERANet-LAC joint calls and enriched and updated following the experiences and lessons learnt in each of the joint calls: terms of reference, guidelines for applicants, evaluation guidelines, templates for agreements etc.

## 4.2 Prospect

The consortium partners shall constantly work on the extension of the group of funding agencies. In the frame of the joint actions, new linkages shall be identified through which the Interest Group will be actively promoted. The Funding Agencies Platform is expected to support the enlargement of the IG and thus the participation in future activities – it is promoted and further linked to national professional networks by all partners.

## 5. Priority areas

In the frame of ERANet-LAC the topics selected refer to the thematic areas discussed under the JIRI. They were developed and recommended by the SOM Working Groups and endorsed through the SOM delegates: Biodiversity/Climate, Bioeconomy, Energy and Health and – in the 2nd joint call - additionally Information- and Communication Technologies (ICT).

The SOM Working Groups developed a total of 8 thematic reports that were presented at the SOM 2015. Each document includes the background information in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on the respective thematic area, a thorough description of the currently ongoing activity and on the priority topics. It concludes with very concrete recommendations for the specific area. For further information please see the full versions of the thematic reports on Biodiversity, Bioeconomy, Energy, Health and ICT formulated by the SOM Working Groups at: <http://eranet-lac.eu/Documents.php>

These reports basically were up to date upon editorial deadline (April 2017). They shall be considered as an important groundwork for upcoming joint activities. However, they should be thoroughly revised before topics for future joint activities are determined and continuously adapted to the state of the art.

## 5.1 Priority topics

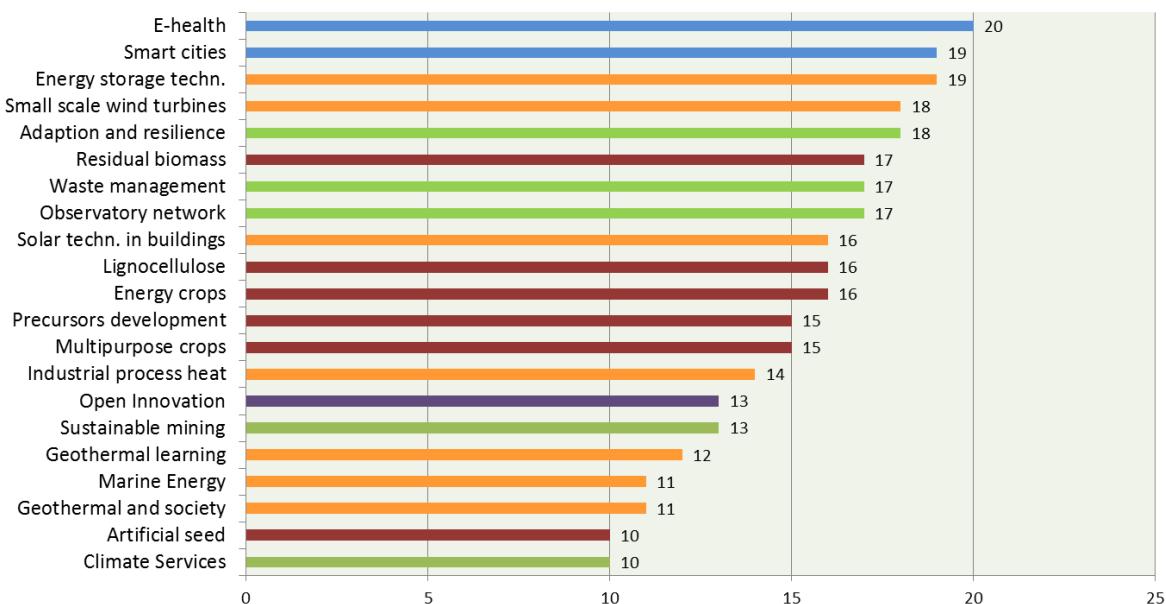
In preparation of the 3rd EU-CELAC call for research and innovation projects, ERANet-LAC conducted a survey among all funding agencies that expressed interest in future joint activities. 26 entities (12 EU / 14 LAC) participated, which represents more than 70% of all funding agencies participating in both calls.

The topics used in this survey resulted from the SOM working groups in Biodiversity, Bioeconomy, Information and Communication Technologies, Energy and Health. Most of them were already prepared for and successfully implemented in the 1st and in the 2nd Joint Call.

For the upcoming joint activities these topics will be enriched by additional topics resulting from recent discussions among the SOM working groups. Besides, all interested funding agencies had the opportunity to propose their own topics of interest that might not have been considered yet.

The survey results show that the relevance of the topics developed by the EU-CELAC SOM working groups remains high. Also the topics that were already published in one or even both calls are still of high interest for the funding agencies. Topics of all areas are among the highest-ranking, no area is lacking behind.

**Comparison of all topics**



Source: ERANet-LAC diagram based on the survey “Tendencies in the outcomes of a preliminary topic inquiry for Joint Activities” (March 2017).

Taking into account that all of the topics are high ranked, these survey outcomes shall be considered as solid orientation for future activities. In order to not duplicate efforts and to achieve synergies and complementarities open calls of current EU thematic, H2020 and other global initiatives should be thoroughly examined, before initiating any newly planned action.

As the topic survey was answered by smaller countries as well as by the bigger countries with more international experience, the above mentioned topics guarantee a wide participation, including a wide range of countries.

In future calls it has to be considered that the ratio of participating EU-CELAC funding agencies in every topic is balanced. Furthermore, a critical mass of participating entities has to be ensured.

## 6. Priority activities

ERANet-LAC has implemented three types of activities that proved to be extremely successful and are strongly recommended to be continued in future EU-CELAC projects:

### 6.1 Joint Calls

ERANet-LAC has successfully implemented two joint calls with the overall participation of 30 funding organizations from 25 countries. The key component of these calls are the terms of reference. They include detailed evaluation guidelines, the relevant contents for the call text, the guidelines for applicants, evaluators and panelists and were formulated with the active cooperation of all partners participating in the joint call. The open discussions on the content of all documents assured the highest level of transparency and definitely contributed to trust building among all partners, since all concerns and barriers were clearly expressed in the open forum. Obstacles and barriers that came up were thoroughly analyzed and overcome. This experience shall serve as reference and guideline for future joint calls<sup>8</sup>.

Six Pilot Coordination Actions implemented in the frame of ERANet-LAC enhanced the coordination and clustering of existing research programmes and the mutual opening of existing research infrastructures and innovation programmes. As the PCAs have promoted the establishment of common objectives in the strategic agendas at national, regional and biregional levels, this type of activity is further recommended to be considered in future EU-CELAC actions.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Joint Calls - call text template: [https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/call\\_text-template.pdf](https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/call_text-template.pdf)

Joint Call - Terms of Reference template: [https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/tor-jointcall\\_template\\_0.pdf](https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/tor-jointcall_template_0.pdf)

Summary of Joint Calls - [https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/lac-eu\\_joint\\_actions\\_1.pdf](https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/lac-eu_joint_actions_1.pdf)

Lessons Learnt: [https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/eranet-lac\\_joint\\_calls\\_lessonslearnt\\_1\\_1.pdf](https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/eranet-lac_joint_calls_lessonslearnt_1_1.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> For concrete recommendations on how to implement this activity please see: [https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/coordination-actions\\_background-information\\_0.pdf](https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/coordination-actions_background-information_0.pdf)

## **6.2 Trust building through staff exchange programme**

Staff Exchange Programme between EU and CELAC research and innovation funding agencies promoted sharing knowledge and experiences and trust building among partners and it supported building professional networks and good relationships across the partner organizations. All of those aspects are extremely important to implement joint activities. All 18 partners (11 from EU, 8 from CELAC) who participated in the programme evaluated it positively and expressed their hopes for the continuation of the programme.

As this activity is completely flexible it can be implemented according to individual demands and interests. It is highly recommended to implement it in advance of and during joint activities.

## **6.3 Prioritized types of joint actions**

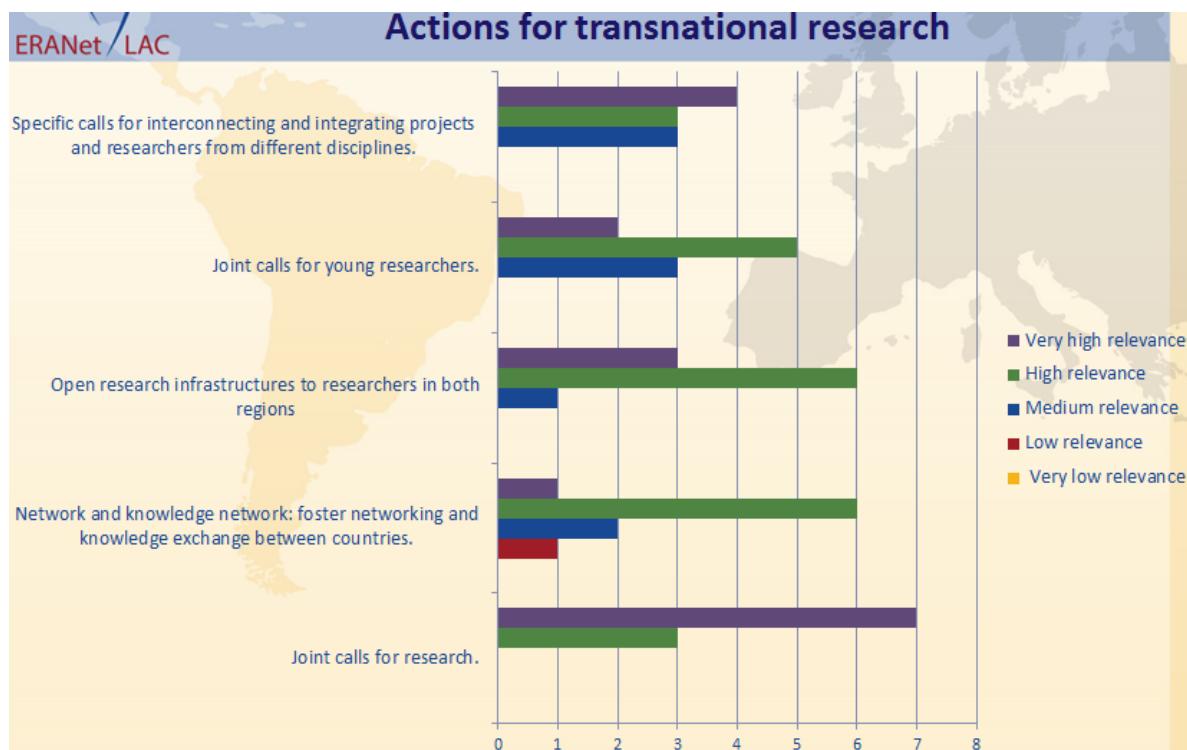
In December 2016, the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, MINECO initiated a survey among all ERANet-LAC partners with the aim to identify instruments that could be of interest for future joint funding activities in the EU-CELAC context. A total of 10 partner countries responded (6 LAC / 4 EU), which represents 60% of the ERANet-LAC consortium.

The outcomes of the survey revealed that the most demanded type of activities to be realized in the future is joint calls. All funding agencies considered it of very high or high relevance.

A deeper analysis of the survey shows a high interest in stronger specifying the target groups for calls and in opening the instruments to new dimensions: The idea of developing specific calls to interconnect and integrate projects and researchers from different disciplines (for example, impacts of climate change on social groups) was classified by 70% of the funding agencies with very high or high relevance.

The same applies to the concept of opening research infrastructures to researchers in both regions. Access to research infrastructures is an emerging topic, which is already reflected by the pilot call prepared by Mexico and Spain (see below chapter 7 Outlook, page 15).

Another relevant output of the survey concerns the innovation aspect. Questions such as relevance of programmes for the creation of spin-offs and startups, funding industrial PhDs or actions to knowledge transfer from research to innovation were positively received by the funding agencies. This outcome shall be considered for future activities. It might for example be of interest to launch a specific joint call on innovation with SME or industry participation in the future.



Source: ERANet-LAC diagram based on the survey on possible activities for transnational research cooperation (March 2017).

## 7. Outlook

### Further extension of EU-CELAC Interest Group

**CELAC:** The fact that several smaller countries or countries with little international experience, such as Barbados, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Panama and others actively participated in the joint calls, opened their structures for international cooperation and generated their desire to deepen their cooperation with the EU and its member/associated states in the future. By the end of ERANet-LAC additional smaller countries, such as Nicaragua, El Salvador or Costa Rica, had signaled their interest to join the group of funding agencies as well. This openness must be taken advantage of: These countries will be individually addressed and actively integrated in the upcoming months.

The integration of the Caribbean countries was initiated. First funding agencies expressed their interest to participate and were informed and consulted by the ERANet-LAC coordination. Nevertheless, no project proposals with participation from the English-speaking Caribbean have been submitted. Future EU-CELAC integration must therefore especially focus the Caribbean countries.

The successfully realized joint activities will serve as strong basis and argument for the realization of further joint activities. These shall be initiated with a well elaborated communication strategy towards the Caribbean countries.

### **Time-line for concrete joint actions:**

The present roadmap shall be considered “preliminary”, as it will be updated in the beginning of 2018, when the extension of ERANet-LAC will have come to an end. In this first phase the following concrete actions are planned:

- Joint Call Health: As “pre-pilot activity” of the EU-CELAC IG, ERANet-LAC successfully supported the preparations for the first joint call of the EU-LAC HEALTH project coordinated by Spanish Health Institute Carlos III (ISCIII). The call was successfully launched in December 2016. The EU-CELAC IG has offered its services to future joint funding actions of in the area of health.
- Joint Call Energy infrastructures: A second ongoing funding activity is the implementation of a pilot call for research infrastructures in the area of marine energy. In a funding agencies meeting that took place in June in Mexico, the topics were formulated. The launch of the call is intended for November 2017.
- The EU-CELAC Interest Group strives to launch a joint call on an average of once per year following 2017.
- The 40 projects funded in the frame of the two ERANet-LAC joint calls will be evaluated and analysed regarding their potential for participation in Horizon 2020. For this purpose, a meeting will be organized with the coordinators of the most promising projects.

For the overall duration of the roadmap, a time-span from 2017 to 2020 should be considered: A period of 3.5 years should be enough to validate the contents of the roadmap, to implement and evaluate further (new) actions/activities and to detect potential lacks and to identify ways to improve the concepts.

In this time-span, the potential of coordinating future activities in the frame of the EC Framework Programme H2020 shall be analyzed and enhanced. In addition, the thematic areas relevant for EU-CELAC cooperation shall be explored continuously and adapted to the status quo. At the same time, the types of actions to be realized shall be optimized in relation to the lessons learnt from the preceding activities. The inclusion of new partner countries interested in participating in EU-CELAC cooperation in R&D and Innovation in the existing network shall be driven forward continuously.

### **Recommendations to further support joint activities**

Secure sustainability of the bi-regional cooperation on Research and Innovation after the lifetime of ERANet-LAC, f. ex. through the EU-CELAC Interest Group or another entity that offers a physical office in each region.

Maintain and further develop the network created by ERANet-LAC, paying special attention to the active inclusion of the smaller countries (Caribbean-, Central American-, Andean Countries) in order to involve them deeper in the bi-regional process.

Realize synergies with related initiatives (JPI's, Thematic projects, Programmes, ERA NETs, JRC, etc.) open to EU-CELAC cooperation and with the CELAC National Contact Point Network in order to better increase CELAC countries' participation in the upcoming H2020 calls 2018-2020. Optimize the upcoming events organized by ERANet-LAC / EU-CELAC Interest Group with other regional events, including Horizon 2020 events.

Continue promoting the Innovation Dimension in future actions. Develop a communication strategy that supports the enhancement of the bi-regional innovation aspect. Take into consideration the "Policy Recommendations on Innovation Collaboration" developed in the Innovation Forum organized by ERANet-LAC in May 2016<sup>10</sup>.

#### **Excursion ALCUE NET Foresight Exercise and its "Scenario Vision 2030"<sup>11</sup>**

During the SOM meeting held in Costa Rica in April, 2014, several national representatives stressed the need to develop a strategic vision for the bi regional cooperation to better focus its activities and to provide strategic guidelines. In response the ALCUE Net conducted a foresight exercise under the coordination of SENACYT, Panama. In their Vision 2030 the authors presume that "the bi-regional cooperation in STI develops in 2030 under a context characterized by a large number of global economic, societal, social and environmental challenges one of which is the unprecedented acceleration in the production of knowledge. Most of the challenges that affect both ALC and EU regions are being faced by global efforts, of which the bi-regional cooperation between ALC and EU constitutes an important and noticeable component."

To reach the "Scenario-Vision 2030" the authors suggest a set of recommendations, some of which may be appropriate to be mentioned in the present roadmap, as already today they are of utmost actuality, these are among others: Development of strategic intelligence, including support to research infrastructures; enhancement of a more balanced bi-regional cooperation; enhancement of policy dialogues; a more focused strategy on innovation; creation of research and innovation networks - including social networks; a better definition of R&D priorities, along thematic and sectorial lines.

<sup>10</sup> Policy Recommendations on Innovation Collaboration : [http://eranet-lac.eu/assets/moxiemanager/ERANET%20LAC%20Innovation%20forum\\_POLICY%20RECOMMENDATIONS.pdf](http://eranet-lac.eu/assets/moxiemanager/ERANET%20LAC%20Innovation%20forum_POLICY%20RECOMMENDATIONS.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> An exploration of the future Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) and European Union (UE) bi-regional cooperation in science, technology and innovation. For full document see: [https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/eu-lac\\_foresight\\_resume.pdf](https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/eu-lac_foresight_resume.pdf)