



**For Immediate Release**



## **SECOND SCENARIO BUILDING WORKSHOP**

### **ANALYZING THE SCIENTIFIC SCOPE AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE EU-LAC HEALTH COOPERATION**

**Rome, Italy, 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

How can EU-LAC cooperation in health research be financed efficiently? What governance structures are needed? Which scientific areas would be enriched by the bi-regional cooperation? These are the main questions that were addressed during the second “Scenario Building Workshop” implemented by the EU-LAC Health project. 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.



EU-LAC Health is a 5-year project co-financed by the European Commission through the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (Health theme). Its aim is to establish a consensus roadmap for cooperative health research. This roadmap will be continuously developed including discussions and the advice of active scientists, policymakers, programme owners and other stakeholders. Overall, an efficient coordination of health research policies and funding between the EU (Europe) and LAC (Latin America and the Caribbean) regions will be beneficial for both sides.

The workshop was opened by Maria Uccellatore, *Director of EU Programmes Office of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research* and Alfredo Cesario, *Delegate of the Direction General for Research, Italian Ministry of Health* emphasizing the importance of international cooperation between LAC and EU for the scientific development.

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## *EU-LAC HEALTH (Defining a Roadmap for Cooperative Health research between the EU and Latin America-Caribbean countries: a Policy Oriented Approach*

The workshop was organized on how to practically implement EU-LAC cooperation, dealing with a scientific and a governance part, according to the planned roadmap. Active discussions were led during the sessions designed *ad hoc* and advices from the interaction with LAC and EU experts will flow into the roadmap. The group discussions on specific scientific fields of health research were each introduced by a presentation of an expert in that field. Accordingly, the discussions on funding mechanisms and governance were initiated by incentive presentations about the experiences of e.g. policy-makers or related project managers.



The workshop objectives were reached and will be the basis for further specification in the workshops to come:

- Potential scientific areas for beneficial EU-LAC cooperation, identified from a survey to funding and research institutions, were discussed in the different groups including experts in those particular fields. The analysis showed that in these fields the identification of the added value from such cooperation as well as the feasibility to conduct joint research are considered very important aspects.
- The SWOT analysis of different possibilities for funding such cooperation that had been previously developed could further be specified. The discussions made clear 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 very active 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 research. Important progress in this regard has already been made with establishing an initial set of priority areas for the two regions and in gaining an overview on possible mechanisms for governing and effectively funding such cooperation. However, these governing and funding mechanisms will have to be further explored and adjusted to the special needs of EU-LAC cooperation.

The next EU-LAC Health workshop will take place in Mexico 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

**Project Partners:** ISCIII (Spain), MSCR-RIMAI (Costa Rica), INNOVATEC (Spain), COHRED (Switzerland/ Mexico), DLR (Germany), FIOCRUZ (Brazil), MINCYT (Argentina), APRE (Italy).

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