



Experiences and lessons learned in the Bilateral Agreements between LAC and the EU

Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e
Innovación Productiva
Argentina

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Presenter/ date/ Place

Bi-lateral S&T Agreements with the EU



- Argentina (1999, came into force in 2001)
 - Abest (2005)=> Abest II (2009)
- Brazil (2005)
 - B.Bice (2005)=> BB.Bice (2008)
- Chile (2002)
 - Chiep (2005)=> Chiep-II (2009)
- Mexico (2004)
 - UEMEXCyT (2006)=>UEMEXCyT² (2008)

Strategic guidelines of the S&T Agreement with the EU (1999):



- Promote Argentina- EU cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation areas in a regional and national perspective
- Develop an information programme about the European Research Area (ERA) and the opportunities it offers for Argentinean researchers
- Facilitate the Argentinean scientific community and SMEs participation in joint R&D activities and make them aware of the existing S&T cooperation opportunities with the EU
- Co-found R&D joint projects in FP7 main thematic areas
- Contribute to EU-LAC bi-regional dialogue

Argentinean Bureau for Enhancing Cooperation with the EU in S, T & i



- Establishment of the Argentinean Bureau for Enhancing Cooperation with the European Union in Science, Technology and Innovation => ABEST A-EU Project (2005-2009).
- ABEST- Phase II (2009 -) was conceived as its natural follow up **to:**
 - **improve and expand scientific and technological cooperation** between Argentina and the EU, with special emphasis on FP7,
 - deepen certain specific topics, such as the improvement of the identification of priorities, sharing common practices **and present prospects for cooperation in specific fields.**

Implementation tools



- **Infodays, workshops, videoconferences at national level:** covering almost the entire Argentine territory.
- **Training sessions for offices in countries without S&T Agreement with the EU: Uruguay, Panamá, Perú.**
- **Workshops with other Third Country Platforms (Montevideo, 16 March '10): Brazil, Chile, México.**
- Argentina entered in the **Health National Contact Points network** in May 2010 and participated in workshops.
- A **National Institutional Contacts Point Network** was conformed including all provinces and national universities.
- **Travel grants** to join potential Europeans partners to discuss the participation in future consortia (in 2011 3 out of 7 belongs to the Health Area).
- Into the framework of **EULARINET project**, a workshop was organized in Bs As (November 2010) to define thematic areas of regional interest in **Health** to be proposed as SICA.
- Observatory on ST&I in EU-AR Cooperation
- Web site: www.abest.com.ar

The Argentinean experience



- INCO-DC (1994-1998 - FP4):
 - 32 funded projects had Argentinean participation.
 - Total EC contribution > €17 million.
 - Thematic areas of health, agriculture and natural resources management.
- INCO-DEV (1998-2002 – FP5):
 - 29 contracts.
 - Themes expanded to sustainable development policies, including an early coordination action on biofuels.
- FP6 (2002-2006):
 - 95 partners, 78 projects
 - about 35% in specific international cooperation (INCO) addressing basic needs in health and public health, food security and sustainable use of natural resources and their ecosystems.
 - Cooperation was also successful in other thematic areas, particularly Food Quality and Safety, Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Ecosystems, ICT , etc.

FP6 – Six projects in Health



- **ELAN2LIFE** : “Europe-Latin America Network for boosting international cooperation in the field of Life Sciences” - **CONICET**
- **CAPABILITY**: “Capacity Building for the Transfer of Genetic Knowledge into Practice and Prevention: An International Collaborative Network” - **HOSPITAL DE PEDIATRÍA SAMIC "PROF. DR. JUAN P GARRAHAN"**
- **ETUMOUR**: “Web accessible decision support system for brain tumor diagnosis and prognosis” - **F.L.E.N.I**
- **WOUND**: “A multi-organism functional genomics approach to study signaling pathways in epithelial fusion/wound healing”. - **INST LELOIR**
- **TB-DRUG OLIGOCOLOR** : “Development of a molecular platform for the simultaneous detection of Mycobacterium tuberculosis resistance to rifampicin and fluoroquinolones” - **INSTITUTOS DE SALUD "DR. CARLOS G. MALBRAN“ and HOSPITAL Dr. CENTRAGNOLO**
- **EURASNET**: “European Alternative Splicing Network of Excellence” –

University of Buenos Aires

EU-AR S&T Cooperation Agreement Evaluation (2011)



The Evaluation Report of the first five years of implementation of the Cooperation Agreement agreed to conclude:

- **A significant progress in S&T cooperation** between Argentina and the EU at bilateral, regional and bi-regional level, in a political and practical sense. Participation in FP7 Argentina has improved. The success rate of Argentina's proposals is of 24.7.% higher than average success rate reached by third countries 22.8% (México 23.4%, Brazil 21.8% Chile 21.1%).
- Argentina ranks 12th in terms of number of applicants and 10th in terms of contribution requested from the European Community.
- Argentina participates in 97 projects thus receiving a total amount of 9,10 million Euros in terms of financial assistance from the European Commission.
- **An Argentinean substantial contribution to the EU-LAC SOM dialogue**, in particular the progress driven by Argentinean working groups to define joint working plans
- **A significant increase of Argentina's investment in S&T**
- A tacit extension of the Agreement, also justified on the **excellent relationship developed between both parties** over the last twenty years

Cooperation in Health, Research & Innovation



Relevance of Argentinean most active FP7 research priority areas by number of applicants

AR - Argentina - most active FP7 research priority areas by number of applicants applying for the research projects

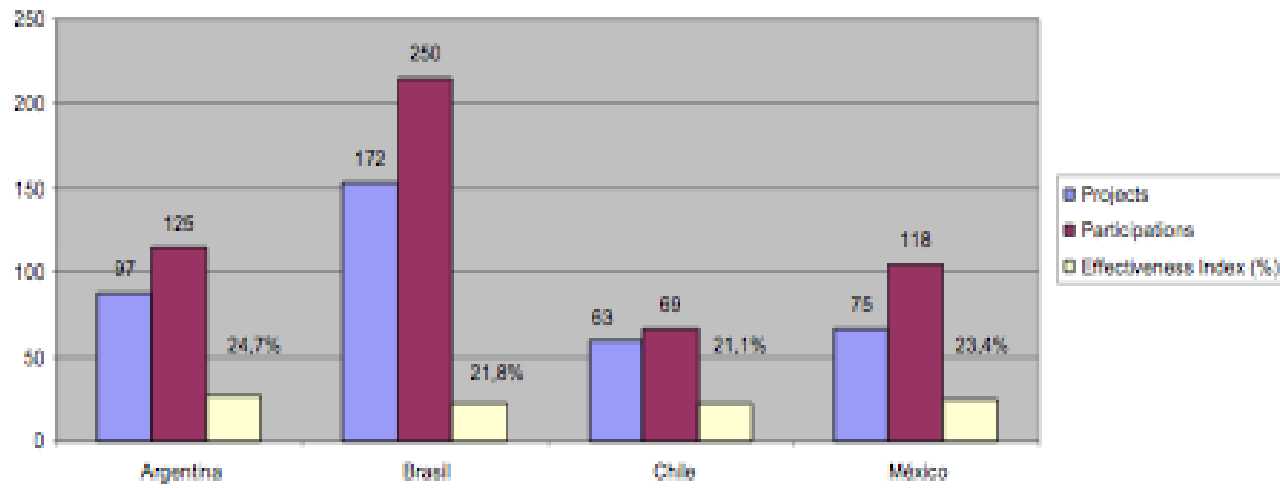
FP7 priority area	Nr. of applicants	Requested EC contribution by applicants (M euro)	Nr. of mainlisted applicants	Success Rate (applicants)	Requested EC contribution by mainlisted applicants (M euro)	Success Rate (requested EC contribution)
Environment (including Climate Change)	111	18,23	14	12,61 %	1,81	9,95 %
Marie-Curie Actions	98	n/a	41	41,84 %	n/a	n/a
Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology	74	10,45	20	27,03 %	1,84	17,56 %
Health	60	11,90	12	20,00 %	2,38	19,99 %
Information and Communication Technologies	46	3,92	11	23,91 %	0,80	20,29 %
Socio-economic sciences and Humanities	45	5,77	5	11,11 %	0,82	14,21 %

Relevance of Argentinean FP7 research priority areas by EC contribution

AR - Argentina - most active FP7 research priority areas by EC contribution granted to the research projects

FP7 Priority Area	Number of grant holders	% of all AR grant holders	EC contribution (EUR million)	% of total EC contribution to AR
Health	10	12,99%	2,23	25,15 %
Environment (including Climate Change)	10	12,99%	1,32	14,85 %
Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology	13	16,88%	1,15	13,00 %
Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies - NMP	6	7,79%	0,88	9,92 %
Socio-economic sciences and Humanities	5	6,49%	0,82	9,19 %
Information and Communication Technologies	10	12,99%	0,66	7,42 %

Latin America participation in the FP7 (2007-2011)

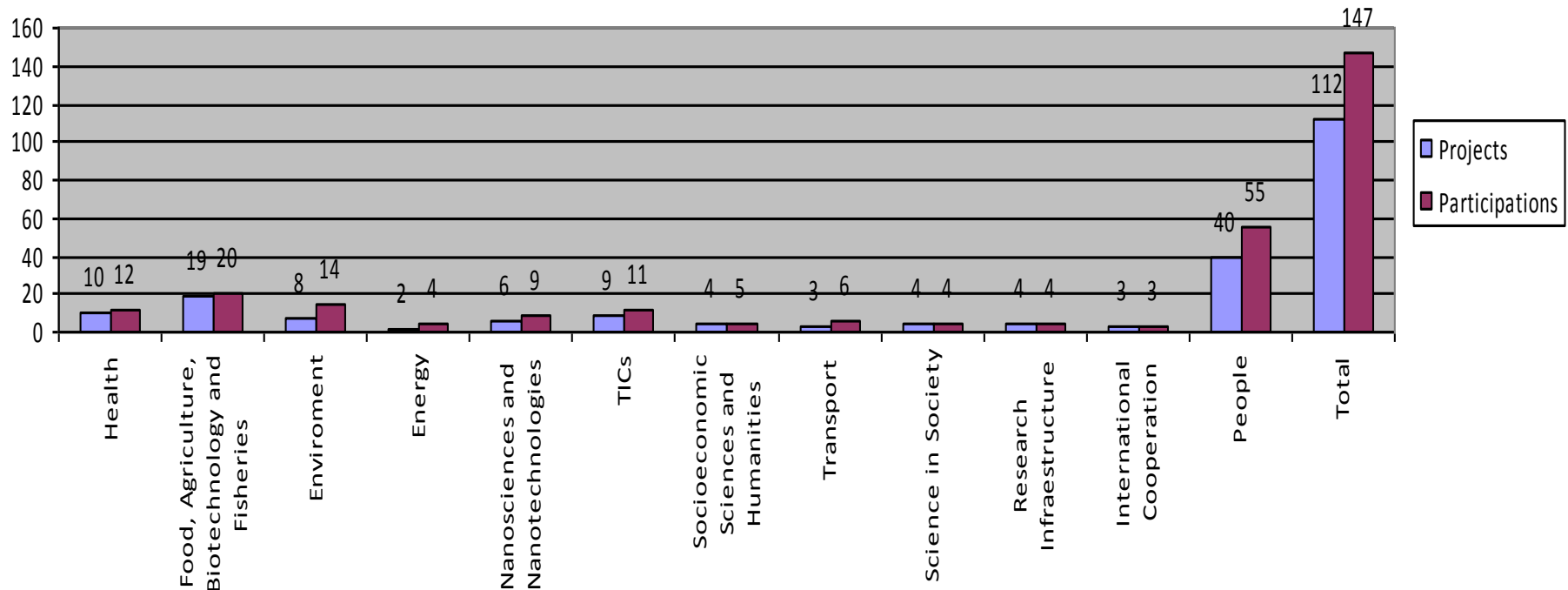


Source: ABEST ST&I Observatory based in data from CORDA, 2010

Arg. Participation in FP7 (2007 – 2011)



Argentinean participation in FP7 (2007-2011)



Source: ABEST II Observatory based on CORDA (2011)

FP7 – Ten projects in Health



- **Fast XDR Detect:** “Development of a two-approach plate system for the fast and simultaneous detection of MDR and XDR *M. tuberculosis*” **ANLIS and HOSP. CENTRAGNOLO**
- **OPCARE:** “A European Collaboration to optimise research for the care of cancer patients in the last days of life” – **PLNGO**
- **ChagasEpinet:** “Comparative epidemiology of genetic lineages of *Trypanosoma cruzi*” – **Universidad Nacional de Salta**
- **Carepneumo:** “Combating Antibiotics Resistant Pneumococci by Novel Strategies Based on in vivo and in vitro Host ? Pathogen Interactions” – **SAMIC**
- **No-Stress:** “Unraveling the molecular mechanism of nitrosative stress resistance in tuberculosis” – **University of Buenos Aires**

FP7 – Ten projects in Health



- **EucoNET**: “*Network for European / third countries cooperation in the field of HIV & TB*” – **CONICET**
- **Chibcha**: “*Genetic study of Common Hereditary Bowel Cancers in Hispania and the Americas*” **FUDEIG**
- **Focus**: “*Fixed Dose Combination drugs for Secondary Cardiovascular Prevention*” – **DAMIC**
- **Newtbac**: “*Discovery and preclinical development of new generation tuberculosis vaccines*” – **INTA**
- **EULAC Health**

EULARINET

EU/LA Research and Innovation Networks



Strengthening the dialog in S&T between the EU and LA through a platform of political-regional dialog :

Health

- **General objective:** to identify topics of common interest where Europe and Latin America will benefit from S&T cooperation in the health theme
- **2 Latin American-European VC/WS on Health:** Recommendations for SICA topics with special focus on LA

Results



- 2 sets of principal outputs were generated. The first output contains 6 proposals that are proposed for inclusion in the FP7 Health future work programmes: Latin America Region

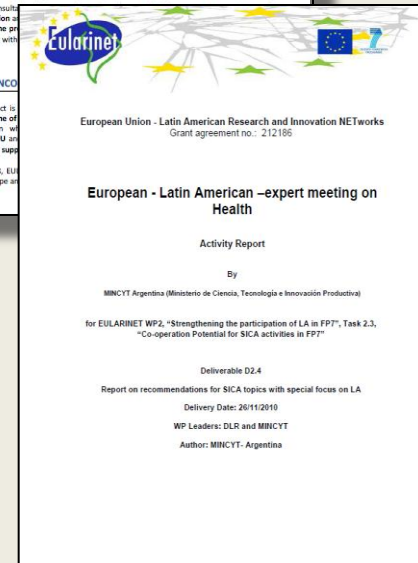
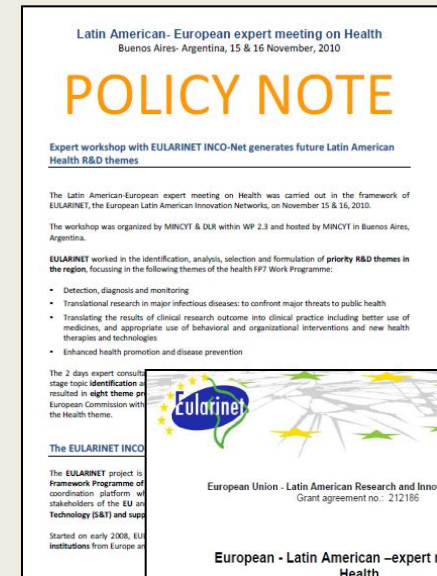
Area - main line	Title
Area 2.3.	1 - European and Latin American collaborative research on HIV-TB coinfection
Area 2.3.	2 - Innovative approaches to understand the mechanisms of disease development and treatment outcomes in neglected tropical diseases
Area 1.2.	3 – Multidisciplinary research on emergent and re emerging virus diseases between Europe, Latina America and the Caribbean: Challenges and opportunities
Area 3.3.	4 - Improving primary child health care through the integration and evaluation of communitarian practices
Area 1.2.	5- Proteomics and biomarkers in Dementia
Area 3.3.	6 - Development and assessment of comprehensive and integrated interventions and programmes to improve delivery of care and prevention of complications for patients with chronic non-communicable diseases.

2nd group: proposals generated but that are not included in the 4 thematic previously selected to be the focus of the workshop: “Translational Research in other major diseases” area

Area - main line	Title
Area 2.4.	1 - High impact research for Rare Diseases with unmet diagnosis or therapeutics in the EU - Latin American & Caribbean region.
Area 2.4.	2 – Nutrigenomic and Nutrigenetic studies aimed at preventing obesity/diabetes and associated complications

Publishable Summary

1. Policy Note delivered to the European Commission on Health.
2. Deliverable D2.4: Report on recommendations for SICA topics with special focus on LA: Health Report



Other MINCYT/EU cooperation and co-financing mechanisms



Programme for Strengthening the Competitiveness of SMEs and Employment Creation in Argentina (2011-2016) - Budget of 19.6 million Euros (9.8 M each) The objective is to strengthen and improve governance mechanisms for technology transfer to SMEs and to support the creation of businesses based on micro and nano technologies employment in Argentina. One of the main areas of the project is the **NANO health** sector.

BIOTECH MERCOSUR UE II- Budget 2 Million Euros

The Project will promote consortia building between the academic and private sectors at a regional level, in order to finance research biotechnology projects in the health area especially for **neglected diseases** in the region. This project will take place in framework of the BIOTECSUR Platform

Other MINCYT/EU cooperation and co-financing mechanisms



EULANEST Joint Calls (2009-2012)- Argentinean budget: 150.000 Euros.

The aim has been to promote and coordinate cooperation in Science and Technology between the EU and Latin America, by enhancing networking and cooperation among European policy makers and program managers involved in research cooperation with Latin America in various areas of science.

Project in Health: **NEURONANO, FIBROGEL, NanoSkin.**

Reciprocal Agreement with the **COST Programme** (since 2010)- Argentinean budget of 30.000 Euros.

This Agreement provides a framework for EU cooperation in Science and Technology, anticipating and complementing the activities of FPs in nine key areas of science and technology.

An Argentine group is involved in the Action BM0806 "*Recent advances*

Argentina is also an active participant in several regional cooperation programmes focused on education, science, technology and/or innovation



- ALFA: programme to promote the capacities of individuals and higher education institutions through EU-Latin America cooperation. ALFA II ran from 2000 to 2005. Fifty-eight Argentinean Higher Education Institutions participated in 147 of the 225 supported projects.
- AL β AN was an EU programme for high level scholarships for Latin America to further cooperation in the field of higher education. Between 2003 and 2008 through five calls, a total of 314 Argentineans received scholarships (just under 10% of the total for all Latin America): 127 were for MSc students, 169 for PhD students and 18 for specialisations.
- @lis , the regional programme aiming to bridge the digital divide and to use new information and communication technologies in Latin America has enabled the creation of the first Latin American network for education and research, Red Clara. Ten Argentinean institutions have participated in different activities of @lis.
- AL-INVEST IV (Internationalization and competitiveness of SMEs in MERCOSUR: Chile and Venezuela) two organizations are in charge of the implementation of Phase IV in Argentina: Unión Industrial Argentina,

Roadmap in Health 2011/2012



- Following with the implementation of thematic workshops in different cities and provinces of the country to give greater visibility to the opportunities offered by the FP7.
- Participation in activities of Health NCP net: training sessions, exchange knowledge and best practices with NCPs from the EU and Third Countries, spread profiles of researchers, inform about the opening of new Calls and increase the visibility of Argentinean health research capacities in Europe.
- Promotion of a Latin American NCP HEALTH Network. The participation of Argentina, Brazil and Costa Rica in the EU LAC Health Project will be the first step to create a regional network to support the coordination of common activities.
- Highlight issues connected with strategic nuclei defined in the **Working Group on Health of the National Plan of Science, Technology and Innovation 2011-2014**, with the necessary intervention of MINCYT.

Conclusions



- Is evident and improvement of the relation between LAC and EU researchers, both at individual and working group level. The participation of LAC research groups in the FP7 has considerably increased compared to previous FPs.
- **Needs:**
 - Improvement a regular bi-regional dialogue on S,T&i to consolidate EU-LAC cooperation, identify common priorities, encourage policy learning and ensure the proper implementation and effectiveness of cooperation instruments.
 - Strengthen networks of thematic of mutual interest to facilitate exchanges between EU-LAC universities, research centers, networks and other private and public institutions.
 - Consolidate institutional S,T&i links between both regions. It is important to ensure continuity in the implementation and follow-up of decisions taken at Ministerial Conferences or EU-LAC Summits, and enhance the efficiency and quality of the bi-regional cooperation taking into account the heterogeneity of LAC existing capacities.



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Muchas gracias!