



## EU-LAC HEALTH WORKSHOP

### *State of Play Workshop*

March 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Rio di Janeiro, Brazil



## **SUMMARY**

The *EU-LAC Health* State-of-Play Workshop took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Argentina, Chile, the Dominican Republic, France, Peru or Trinidad and Tobago, amongst others, contributed with their experience, knowledge and lively discussions to the success of the workshop.

The main objective of the project is the elaboration of a Roadmap to guide policy-makers in collaborative research in health between European Union and its Member States (EU) and Latin-American and Caribbean (LAC) countries. 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.

Presentations on the State-of-Play of Health Research in LAC and EU and the EU-LAC Science & Technology Strategic Cooperation Framework were made by different partners of the project: Miryam Minayo, Claudia Hoirisch, and Cristiane Quental from FIOCRUZ, Caterina Buonocore from the Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE), Tomás López-Peña from ISCIII and Francisco Becerra from Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED).

The first day of the workshop included the discussion on three parallel sessions about the three parts of the State-of-Play analysis previously presented:

- State of play of Health Research in LAC (Luis Gabriel Cuervo, Advisory Board member, acting as a moderator)
- State of play of Health Research in Europe (Stephane Berghmans, Advisory Board member, acting as a moderator)
- State of play of EU-LAC Cooperation in Research (María del Rocío Sáenz, Advisory Board member, acting as a moderator)

Some conclusions were extracted from these three mini-sessions after joint discussion to improve the analysis carried out by the consortium, such as the need to work on some information gaps, in particular about main programmes and gross financial flows of cooperative research between LAC and EU, the existing EU-LAC bridges, and EU-LAC common health themes and criteria.



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The workshop also featured presentations about different initiatives already running in collaboration between Europe and LAC regions, such as, Bilateral Agreements between LAC and the EU, by María Alejandra Álvarez from the Ministry of Science and Technology of Argentina (MINCyT), RIMAIS (Ibero-American network of learning and research in health), by Melany Ascencio from Ministry of Health of Costa Rica (MSCR), NeTropica (The Network for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases in Central America), by Esteban Chaves, the network Coordinator, and the Joint Programming Initiative Antimicrobial Resistance (as an example of EU Transnational initiatives) by Michèle Longuet from the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research.

The second day of the workshop three groups held different SWOT analysis sessions about the existing collaboration initiatives:

- EU-LAC collaborative projects (moderated by Advisory Board member, Alfredo Cesario)
- LAC transnational initiatives (moderated by Advisory Board member, Ximena Luengo)
- EU transnational initiatives (moderated by Advisory Board member, Eero Vuorio)

After the three parallel sessions, a helpful discussion rendered new hints about lessons learned in those previous experiences and provided some threats to collaboration such as the sustainability due economic recession, or the complexity on regulation and bureaucracy. Successful experiences were brought up such as the ERA-Nets, Research Infrastructures and Joint Programming Initiatives in EU, or the Health Systems Research Partnership of Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, coordinated by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada), the Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet), and diverse bilateral activities. The need to identify decision makers and instruments for cooperation in terms of science policy and the convenience of a deeper knowledge of research infrastructures in LAC was revealed. Sharing common diseases or the global spreading of disease were mentioned as good cause for enhance the collaboration between EU and LAC regions.

Joaquín Guinea, from INNOVATEC, a Spanish spin-off from the University of Alcalá that performs and coordinates Research, Development and innovation projects and member of the consortium, offered a short briefing about the *EU-LAC Health* future activities, with the objective of obtaining the first draft of the Roadmap for EU-LAC collaborative health research. This task will be carried out through several workshops, including Scenario Building Workshops, being the next one organised by Ministry of Science and Technology of Argentina (MINCyT) on October 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Closing remarks were addressed by the organisers and *EU-LAC Health* coordinator to the participants after a productive and successful workshop.