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**EU-LAC Health Roadmap Consultation and Validation Workshop
Madrid, Spain, 22 – 23 October 2014**

The 6th EU-LAC Health Workshop had the goal to discuss with EU and CELAC stakeholders the current draft of the roadmap for the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative for Health Research and Innovation (EU-CELAC JIHRI), analyze the results of the “consultation process” as well as further advance towards the refinement of the consensus roadmap

The EU-LAC Health consortium invited policy-makers, scientists, health research experts, Advisory Board members and project partners to Instituto de Salud Carlos III to further advance the project’s roadmap. Prior to the workshop, national health research policy-makers were asked about their opinion on this current draft and whether they consent with the roadmap. They were given the opportunity to clearly state open questions, suggestions or general comments regarding the vision and mission, the objectives as well as the governance structure proposed in the roadmap. The results of this “consultation process” were actively discussed and analyzed, improvements were taken up for revision of the roadmap and all results will be used to finally refine the roadmap document.

The workshop was opened by ISCIII (project coordinator) and was followed by a status-quo of the current draft document. The roadmap to be created by the EU-LAC Health project is a document that is aimed particularly at policy-makers. Next to a background explaining the political context, the document consists of a governance part as well as a proposed ‘Scientific Research Agenda’ produced in great joint effort by expert scientists from EU and CELAC as well as the project. Rafael de Andrés (ISCIII) explained that the basic governance structures as well as the purpose of the EU-CELAC JIHRI have been validated via the “roadmap consultation” by national authorities.

In order to enrich the discussion especially on governance and to get incentives from other well-working initiatives, EU-LAC Health invited three representatives of the Joint Programming Initiatives: JPI on Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND, Philippe Amouyel), JPI on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR, Mats Ulfendahl) and JPI Helathy Diet for a Healthy Life (JPI HDHL, Martijntje Bakker). All three JPIs were asked to present their initiatives and explain how their internal governance procedures – as multilateral European initiatives – work. JPIs are EU-MS driven activities that work towards a) a synchronization of national programmes by trying to align these and b) issue joint calls on the basis of “variable geometry” (meaning that MS / consortium partners can decide on a case-by-case basis whether they are interested to participate in the joint call). The experiences and recommendations of JPIs and their governance will be taken into account as a model when thinking about EU-CELAC JIHRI governance.

After a brief presentation on the outcomes of the roadmap consultation which proved the high interest of EU and CELAC countries through generally quite positive answers, suggestions and the indication of wanting to learn more, very active group discussions with the invited participants followed. The answers and input from the national representatives on the “Vision and Mission”, “Objectives and Principles” and “governance” were discussed with a focus on the following questions: whether there was an agreement/disagreement with the comment, what the weaknesses and strengths of the consultation process were and whether there were additional aspects to modify the roadmap. The incentives given already in the morning session by the JPIs could here especially be used for the governance part.

The next two discussion sessions took place on the second day of the workshop and focused on the roadmap refinement. Participants were split up into groups on the three important parts that will

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influence the coordination of EU-CELAC JIHRI: the policy governance, the scientific guidance and the involvement of all different sorts of stakeholders. The objective of these discussions was the proposition of actual activities / milestones in order to get the ambitious initiative running. Each group proposed very useful and good input on how to reach these goals. The third group discussions dealt with technical specificities of governance of the future EU-CELAC initiative (via a “Coordinating Body”) with its different governance “bodies” interplaying with each other – the “Governing Board”, the “Scientific Advisory Board” and the “Stakeholder Advisory Board”. Questions such as who should belong to these boards, criteria to choose the members, how should they be organized, what would their expected results / objectives be and how could the sustainability be ensured, were dealt with.

It was stressed that all discussion groups agreed that in order to make the EU-CELAC JIHRI successful and sustainable all governing board members need to have a legitimate (decision-making) mandate from their respective national governments. Further, the Scientific Advisory Board should be composed of high-level scientists (basic and clinical scientists, industrial) chosen not only by biblio-metrics but representing the different regions and scientific fields in a balanced manner and considering the gender balance. A third and important outcome was that the workshop participants agreed about the need to have a holistic approach – meaning that the EU-CELAC JIHRI should also consider to cover and promote non-research actions such as workshops e.g. on common standards and capacity building. The very good feedback from the discussions and the enthusiastic and committed reactions of the audience demonstrated the great potential and need for a common approach. All outcomes and inputs from the discussions will be taken into account.

The next EU-LAC Health conference will be the larger “Implementation Conference” in Brussels at the beginning of June 2015. Objectives of this conference will be the presentation and dissemination of the final version of the EU-LAC Health roadmap so that a maximum impact of the roadmap is reached. Further, it is planned to engage representatives of national ministries in a discussion about how to best implement this initiative.



[EU-LAC Health](#) is a 5-year project financed by the European Union under FP7. Its aim is to establish a consensus roadmap for cooperative health research between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean.

More information can be found at the [Project-Homepage: www.eulachealth.eu](#)

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

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