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EU-LAC Health Workshop – Preparing a Joint Transnational Call to enhance health research cooperation between the European Union, Latin American and Caribbean countries

San José, Costa Rica, 17 November 2016

The Vice Ministers for Health and for Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica, the Ambassador of the European Union to Costa Rica, the Director of International Cooperation, and the coordinator of EU-LAC HEALTH project opened EU-LAC Health workshop

The [EU-LAC Health](#) project invited policy makers and funding agencies from European Union, Latin American and Caribbean countries to a workshop in order to prepare a Joint Transnational Call to enhance health research cooperation between both regions.

The opening was held by five distinctive EU and CELAC speakers: Mrs. Irinia Elizondo Delgado, Director of International Cooperation, Mr. Pelayo Castro Zuzuarregui, EU ambassador in Costa Rica, Mrs. Ester Anchía Angulo, Vice-Minister of Health of Costa Rica, Mrs. Carolina Vásquez Soto, Vice-Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica, and Mr. Rafael de Andrés Medina, Coordinator of EU-LAC Health. They jointly and commonly stressed the high importance of the large bi-regional health research initiative which has already managed to create and engage a large network of interested stakeholders across the Atlantic acknowledging the need to collaborate on not only bi-regional but global challenges. They highlighted the Transnational Call as an important pillar of the EU-CELAC Research Area, announced by Commissioner Carlos Moedas in June 2015 at the EU-CELAC summit in Brussels.



Mr. Pelayo Castro Zuzuarregui, EU ambassador in Costa Rica addressing the audience, and at the table Mrs. Irinia Elizondo Delgado, Director of International Cooperation, Mrs. Ester Anchía Angulo, Vice-Minister of Health of Costa Rica and Mr. Rafael de Andrés Medina, Coordinator of EU-LAC Health

Following the official opening ceremony, a closed session with representatives of ministries and funding agencies was held in order to define the final contents and procedures of the transnational call, which will be launched on 2nd of December 2016. Ministries and funding agencies from 19 countries agreed to join the call (Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Guatemala, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay). The call addresses the research topics “Neurodegeneration – Healthy aging to combat neurodegeneration” and “Infectious diseases - Research in promotion of well-being: prevention of infectious diseases, emerging food-, water- and vector-borne diseases”.





Participants at the EU-LAC Health Joint Call meeting on 17 November

Back to back with the workshop preparing the transnational call, a training event on Horizon 2020 EU Research and Innovation Funding Programme (H2020) was held on the 16th of November 2016. The training provided comprehensive information and practical clues for participating in H2020, oriented to EU-LAC collaboration, as well as gave Latin American and European Health researchers the opportunity pitching on their research offer for H2020.



*EU-LAC Health
H2020 Training on
16 November*

The training was divided in two sessions, during the morning theoretical and concise information was given to participants about the general structure of Horizon 2020, rules of participation, tips on how to write a successful proposal, open science and an overview of the various funding opportunities for health projects. There was also time for having a look to the Costa Rica participation in Horizon 2020 by the coordinator of National Contact Points (NCP) in Costa Rica.

During the afternoon session, time was given to the networking and presentation of several research centres through elevator pitches. Some of the participants had the opportunity to have face-to-face meetings with the experts in order to check the feasibility of research ideas or simply to have a more clear and in-deep overview of the different possibilities to participate and be successful in Horizon 2020. More than 45 representatives from research institutions of 7 different nationalities attended the workshop and evaluated the event as very helpful.

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

Project-Partners: ISCIII (Spain)-coordinator, MSCR-RIMAIIS (Costa Rica), INNOVATEC (Spain), DLR (Germany), COHRED (Switzerland), FIOCRUZ (Brazil), MINCYT (Argentina), APRE (Italy), INSERM-AVIESAN (France), INNCOMNSZ (Mexico).

Advisory Board members' countries: Belgium, Chile, Finland, Costa Rica, Germany, Ecuador, Italy, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom, PAHO/WHO

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