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EU-LAC Health Final Conference– JIRI Health as a Joint Force to tackle EU-CELAC common health challenges

Madrid, Spain, 15 June 2017

Jesús Fernández Crespo, Director of the Spanish National Institute of Health Carlos III opened the EU-LAC HEALTH Final Conference.

The EU-LAC Health Final Conference was the main and final dissemination event of the project. The main results and achievements were presented and discussed with research and policy stakeholders from EU and CELAC.

During the first session of the conference, Manoel Barral Neto, Vice-President for Education, Information and Communication of the Brazilian Fiocruz-Foundation and Estrella Fernández, Deputy Head of Subdivision for Horizontal S&T Programme of the State Research Agency (AEI) at the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness outlined the relevance of the EU-CELAC policy dialogue for EU and CELAC and its implications for health research. Afterwards, Finian Hanrahan from the Directorate General R&I of the European Commission presented the Consortium for Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPidR) and Ulrike Busshoff from the Project Management Agency at the German Aerospace Center that coordinates the Secretariat of the International Consortium for Personalised Medicine (ICPerMed) presented it. Subsequently, the audience was informed about the distributed infrastructure for life-science information (ELIXIR) and the opportunities for EU-CELAC cooperation by shared research health infrastructures by Niklas Blomberg, Director of ELIXIR. Finally, Inmaculada Figueroa, Associate Deputy Director General for Science valorization and Internationalization at the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness stressed the importance of EU-CELAC cooperation in the field of Research Infrastructures and gave examples for already established links.

In the second session of the conference members of the EU-LAC Health consortium presented the results and impacts of the project. It was highlighted that JIRI HEALTH, the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Health Research and Innovation, will be the future joint force to tackle EU-CELAC common health challenges based on the networks and expertise established during the lifetime of the EU-LAC Health project.

In the final session, the participants of the conference discussed the options for further strengthening JIRI Health under the framework of the EU-CELAC policy dialogue on research and innovation, also considering the opportunities offered by existing research programmes, consortia and infrastructures (such as Horizon 2020, GloPidR, ICPerMed and ELIXIR).

Rafael de Andrés, coordinator of the project, closed the meeting and thanked the participants for their fruitful contributions.

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Back to back with the EU-LAC Health final conference a funding agencies meeting for the EU-LAC Health joint call was held on the 13th and 14th of June 2017. The participating 21 funding agencies from 19 EU and CELAC countries (Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Guatemala, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay) selected 12 bi-regional research project proposals to be funded: 5 projects addressing the research topic “Neurodegeneration – Healthy aging to combat neurodegeneration” and 7 project proposals addressing the research topic “Infectious diseases - Research in promotion of well-being: prevention of infectious diseases, emerging food-, water- and vector-borne diseases”. The total funding budget amounts around 6 Mio Euros.



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

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

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