



INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Opinion Articles



Cooperation in science and innovation between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean

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Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean share strong historical, cultural and human ties and have a long-lasting relationship based on international law, full respect of human rights and mutual interests. At the same time, Latin America and the Caribbean are for many European citizens faraway lands, quite unknown except for their important cultural legacy, in which Hispanic and pre-Hispanic cultures are mixed in an often remarkable landscape.

The same is true with regard to the Science and Technology area, which has been developed on the continent. But this biased vision shall not make us forget about the many existing great scientific institutions with significant potential in human resources in the region.

Undoubtedly, the investment in Science and Technology along with innovation and knowledge transfer is a key aspect for the sustainable development of our societies. Thus, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are resolutely making efforts to modernise their economies and societies and to improve general welfare through both important investments in these areas and the encouragement for transferring research results to the private sector.

In light of this, the European Union has gambled on international cooperation on research and innovation open to the world through the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020, which is the biggest multilateral programme worldwide in which people from all countries can participate.

Also, there is both a bilateral and a multilateral increasing cooperation between Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, at least with some EU Member States. Likewise, science and technology become progressively important in that they are reflected on current negotiations, such as the review of global agreements between Chile and Mexico. These are countries, like Brazil and Argentina, with which the European Union establishes bilateral agreements on scientific and technological cooperation.

However, only a small part of the scientific and technological potential of Latin America and the Caribbean is currently being exploited in the relations with the EU. In order to face the challenge concerning the relations between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, the “EU-CELAC Joint Research Area in Science and Technology” was launched in 2016. This constitutes a political framework based on three pillars: the mobility of researchers, the access to shared research infrastructures and the encouragement of innovative ideas to effectively address the global challenges we face.

The dialogue carried out within the framework of the Common Research Area allows us to define our most urgent priorities, where only joint efforts can make a difference. In this sense, to ensure greater access of our scientists to the research infrastructures of a global nature, as contemplated by the “EU-CELAC Common Research Area in Science and Technology”, represents a clear step forward in consolidating our regional cooperation.



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Bi-regional cooperation in areas of common interest, such as sustainable urbanisation, climate change, disaster risk management, health and transport, are topics to be handled within the purposed cooperation with the region through the Horizon 2020. This is a unique opportunity and I believe in the active mobilisation of our scientific communities as a tool to prepare us for these actions.

To reinforce our mutual understanding of the political priorities and the demand for scientific excellence, the European Commission has also set up a policy advice initiative to support the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Achieving the objectives of sustainable development is more than a political commitment or a moral imperative. It is also an opportunity to promote employment, growth and prosperity. The 2030 Agenda calls on Europe to use its scientific and technological expertise to anticipate future risks and challenges.

This commitment is fully aligned with my strategic research and innovation priorities described in the concept of the “3 O’s”: Open Innovation, Open Science and Open to the World. Based on our strategic priorities, we need to (1) create the necessary conditions to capitalize on knowledge and ideas for innovation, (2) promote excellence and collaboration in fundamental research issues and (3) strengthen our international commitment through scientific diplomacy.

I firmly believe in the importance of working together at a global level to address shared social challenges and to push the frontiers of knowledge. The commitment of the European Member States and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in our partnership in research and innovation is crucial.

The development of the Common Research Area is an inspiring example. Only through joint commitment we can make a difference.



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Fostering Innovation, Increasing Competitiveness and Promoting Growth in the Caribbean

Sylvia Dohnert

Executive Director of the Compete Caribbean Programme of the Inter-American Development Bank, Barbados.

In order to increase economic growth Caribbean countries are moving towards a single market economy with full intra-regional integration. While undertaking this transition they also have to prepare for the challenges and opportunities brought by this new access to international markets.

For this shift to succeed Caribbean governments will have to play an active role in supporting improvements in infrastructure; a stable macroeconomic environment; and transparent laws and regulations; as well as fostering a business climate that encourages and rewards innovation, initiative and risk-taking. On the other hand, the Caribbean private sector will need to be strengthened to encourage inter-firm collaboration, entrepreneurship, diversification, innovation, and value added exports.

Innovation is a key factor in this process and a significant variable for improving productivity and thus economic growth prospects in the Caribbean. The rapid succession and development of new and at times disruptive technologies is restructuring production, changing the landscape of competition and trade, influencing new market demand, engendering innovative business models, and essentially altering the characteristics of economies.

Regulators, institutions and governance models in the Caribbean are being challenged with the ability to keep up with the dynamism and change that technology can bring to the economy. Specially, when it comes to create the necessary encouraging conditions, implement measures for protecting the environment

and ensuring societal equanimity as new technologies are absorbed.

In view of this challenge, development agencies found themselves in a privileged position to combine resources and expertise to facilitate this agenda. The Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility (CCPF) was created in 2010 as a comprehensive programme that will link productive development policies to business climate reforms to cluster development initiatives and to improvements at the firm-level. CCPF is jointly funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

The core objective of CCPF is to support the region in utilising practical tools to (i) directly support firms in increasing their innovation, productivity, and competitiveness, and (ii) create a supportive business and innovation environment for firms to operate in. CCPF employs four main economic growth promotion tools that support Caribbean firms to grow, innovate, and enter into new sectors and markets: cluster initiatives, competitive innovation grants, business and innovation climate reforms, and knowledge generation and dissemination.

Specifically, CCPF's Cluster Initiatives relied on a bottom-up approach that led individual firms to overcome a lack of trust stemming from rent seeking behavior and to move towards collaborating and pooling resources for the common goal of thriving in the local and global market that hitherto, would likely not have occurred spontaneously.



For example, shrimp farmers in Belize clustered to improve quality controls and secure international certification from the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), key to access US and Canada markets. In Guyana, eco-lodges joined forces to develop an internationally competitive and sustainable sport fishing tourism cluster. They upgraded their infrastructure, established the framework to regulate catch and release activities, whilst tripling their revenue and increasing employee income by 11%.

CCPF's competitively selected firms that received technical assistance and grants to incentivize innovation. Caribbean Premier Products Ltd., for instance, implemented a new line of drinks with an innovative formula. The Protein from Waste (PFW) project implemented a technology for rendering the protein from waste into feedstock whilst promoting reduction in pollution through resource recovery.

Complementary to firms, institutions play a strategic role in promoting innovation as they seek to correct for market failures by reducing uncertainty, providing incentive for undertaking innovation, and directly investing in innovation. The technical assistance provided to Jamaica to draft a Secured Interest on Personal Property law, implement a collateral registry, and simplify business pre-registration and post-registration helped Jamaica to reduce uncertainty in the business environment as evidenced by its dramatic improvement in its global ranking on the World Bank's Doing Business report, jumping 27 points and becoming the country with the second largest jump towards the frontier of regulatory practice since 2013. The CC PF also successfully supported the institutional strengthening of national competitiveness councils which encourage public-private dialogue mechanisms that addressed coordination failures for promoting innovation and business climates.

Finally, the CC PF addressed a major gap in firm level knowledge on innovation and productivity through the development of comprehensive and internationally comparable firm-level datasets covering 14 Caribbean territories. Until 2011, the region did not have firm-level, internationally comparable data that could shed light on variables that affect productivity. This dataset also allowed for further research providing evidence for gender composition of ownership and management, innovation efforts, skills requirements and mismatches, security efforts, and access to public programs. Firm level data further sup-

ports the positive impact that public assistance programmes can have on innovation and productivity.

The first phase of the programme has proven that these four key tools work in fostering firm innovation through collaboration and competition, whilst promoting competitiveness and growth. CC PF funding contributed to the creation of 12,000 new jobs, 80% attributed to women and youth. Approximately 525 firms benefitted through 14 innovative grants and 8 cluster projects. Approximately \$153m (41%) increase in revenues of firms and clusters and a USD\$37m (23%) increase in exports.

Currently CC PF is undertaking a Phase II that will deepen its support by focusing on building capacity within the region to design, execute, and monitor economic-growth tools. This focus includes injecting technology, particularly digital technologies, and promoting tools such as technological extension programmes and innovation funds that improve the region's innovative capacity, its productivity growth potential and economic growth prospects.

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The Importance of Innovation for Ireland

John Halligan

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Innovation is a cornerstone of Ireland's overall economic development policy. As a small country, we know that it is key to maintaining competitiveness for Ireland in global markets, and for providing jobs and sustainable growth in our economy.

Innovation 2020, led by my Department, is our cross-government strategy for research and innovation, science and technology. Launched in 2015, it contains a large number of initiatives to support broad based innovation and sets out a pathway for Ireland to become a Global Innovation Leader, driving a strong, sustainable economy and a better society.

Ireland is currently the 10th most innovative country in the world, a significant jump from 21st place just ten years ago. In terms of the quality and impact of our scientific capacity, we have rapidly climbed the rankings to 11th place globally.

We recognise that innovation is crucial to creating and maintaining high-value jobs and attracting, developing and nurturing business, scientists and talented people.

Generating and using new knowledge for economic and social progress is one of my key priorities. By transforming the level and quality of interactions between our higher education research institutions and enterprise, we have developed a strong capacity to commercialise our public research and we are ranked first in the world for knowledge diffusion.

A significant part of our public innovation policy is to support the innovation activity of our business base, which is particularly important for Irish based companies as a result of Brexit.

We are seeing increasing numbers of businesses living by the maxim 'the best way to predict the future is to create it'. Our enterprise base is creating a future few of us can currently imagine. We are rapidly becoming a hub for Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, robotics and automation.

Ireland is now home to:

- All of the top 10 'Born on the Internet' companies;
- All of the top 10 global pharmaceutical firms;
- 9 of the top 10 global software companies with more than 500 software firms in Ireland overall, and
- 20 of the top 25 top financial services companies, Ireland being the 4th largest exporter of Financial Services in the EU.

Enterprise relevant research is key to ensuring all our companies stay ahead of the curve. As a small, open economy, in Ireland we drive a policy of aligning the majority of competitively awarded public investment with areas of opportunity that exist for our companies in the international marketplace. The objective is to ensure that Ireland is favourably positioned to benefit from global opportunities now and into the future, by respond-



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ing to worldwide megatrends and challenges that are shaping the global economy and Ireland's place in it. I have recently announced an update to the areas of focus which include exciting technologies such as Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality, Advanced and Smart Manufacturing and the Decarbonisation of the energy system.

In our Government's recently launched overarching policy initiative Project Ireland 2040, disruptive technologies have been identified as a key strategic outcome and will drive collaboration between the research, education and enterprise sectors, supported through a €500 million Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund.

We also strongly believe in the role of international collaboration. Ireland has strong and well-diversified collaborative links with other EU Member States through Horizon 2020.

European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas has said that the future of innovation lies in bringing as many different people, concepts and fields together. This has a particular importance for us in Ireland – we recognise that international cooperation in research and innovation plays a pivotal role in the development and sustainability of a world-class innovation and research system. We continuously invigorate our research networks with global partners in the development of solutions to shared societal problems and the pursuit of innovation.

A key plank of our engagement in international cooperation is participation of our researchers and enterprise in the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation. My Department has overall policy responsibility for Horizon 2020 and chairs a High Level Group with membership from across government departments and agencies with a research and innovation remit, overseeing the national strategy for engagement, and identifying and championing potential 'big wins' for Ireland.

We have done well in securing competitive funding through the first phases of the European Horizon 2020 programme. From a target of €1.25 billion, Ireland has succeeded in drawing down €475 million so far. This success has been driven by world-class academic researchers and innovative companies. We

are supporting our best researchers to continue to lead and succeed – and especially with a focus on winning impactful European research projects of scale.

Working with our European partners ensures we are all more likely to achieve our common goals.



EU-CELAC Innovact Platform: Innovation to promote territorial cohesion

Begoña Sánchez

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INNOVACT Platform coordinators.**

The EU-CELAC INNOVACT Platform 2017-2018 is a project financed by the European Union and supervised by the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission (DG REGIO). INNOVACT is coordinated by Technopolis and implemented in collaboration with Spatial Foresight, TECNALIA, Competitiveness, WAT and ERRIN.

INNOVACT aims to disseminate the experience of the European Union regarding regional policy and good practices in Latin America, and to prepare and develop further cooperation between the regional authorities and specialised agencies on innovation policy decision-making and governance from the European Union and Latin American border regions. INNOVACT supports cross-border cooperation and innovation in four border CELAC regions, covering six countries: Mexico - Guatemala; Colombia - Ecuador; Colombia - Peru and Peru - Chile.

The project supports the exchange of information on the promotion of cross-border cooperation, innovation systems, clusters and competitiveness; stimulates learning process based on examples and best practices, identifies and develops strategies, Action Plans and specific projects or programs for the development of cross-border value chains.

INNOVACT started in May 2017 and will be finished by September 2018. Among the most important achievements to date, in all the border regions, we can highlight the followings:

- Specific Mapping reports for each of the cross-border regions on the prioritised value chains. These reports are the result of a

detailed analysis of the national, regional and local innovation systems; binational cooperation plans and other relevant actions that support innovation at the selected borders as well as national planning in terms of innovation and value chains. This analysis, together with the discussions with the key stakeholders, has allowed to prioritise specific value chains with potential to generate territorial competitiveness. These value chains have sufficient critical mass and potential to generate added value and economic diversification with inter-sectorial impact. The support of these chains will allow to offer new opportunities to the population, better labour conditions, to reinforce the capacities of its members and to promote economic sustainability. Public and private support is a very important starting point to guarantee its sustainability. It is also foreseen that these value chains could promote better cross-border and European connectivity and complementarity. By border area, the prioritisation has resulted in the support of the following strategic chains:

- Mexico - Guatemala: Energy (applied to environment and tourism) and Information and Communication Technologies (applied to agriculture).
- Colombia - Ecuador: Cocoa and tourism.
- Colombia - Peru: Cocoa and fish farming.
- Peru - Chile: Tourism and agriculture.

- A cross-border working meeting in each of the cross-border zone counting with the participation of national and European experts. These meetings have served to strengthening local capacity and the commitment to growth driven by innovation; raise awareness and knowledge transfer on innovation support,



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strategic planning and cooperation governance instruments; perform a strategic analysis in the prioritised value chains and the identification of potential projects.

These first working meetings have been very successful in terms of participation of innovation ecosystem stakeholders including governments, local and regional administrations in charge of economic promotion and innovation policies, promotion agencies in the border regions, local businesses and business representatives of prioritised value chains, research institutes, vocational schools, universities, etc.

- The project is currently defining Joint Action Plans to be implemented in the short and medium term. The Action Plans will be reinforced with the visit planned for June 2018 to the European Union, where representatives of the Latin American value chains will have the opportunity to work together with Europeans. The exchange of information and knowledge will contribute to a learning process based on an exchange of good practices, in which border regions of Latin America and the European Union will be connected. These joint Action Plans will be discussed and finalised considering the recommendations drawn from the second working meetings to be held in each border area.

- Wide dissemination and awareness about the project. INNOVACT has been widely disseminated among the stakeholders of the border areas, who have supported it and are finetuning it with other similar actions to increase the impact and ensure its sustainability.

- In parallel, INNOVACT provides expert support in the development of the cross-border cooperation strategies in relation to the prioritised value chains, conducts training on themes related to cross-border cooperation and innovation and has developed a virtual platform. Please check the following link to get more information and access to the training modules: <http://www.innovactplatform.eu/>



The CYTED Programme and the agenda of Ibero-American cooperation in science, technology and innovation

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The Ibero-American Programme of Science and Technology for the Development (CYTED) was created in 1984 after a Framework Agreement signed by 21 countries that, to this day, are actively involved in supporting the Programme. Originally focused on the promotion of scientific research through the cooperation of researchers from universities and public Research and Development (R&D) centres, CYTED has now also evolved towards the implementation of instruments and evaluation criteria that stimulate the participation of companies and final users, as well as the promotion of public-private partnerships. These changes run in parallel and overlap those accomplished by the national innovation systems of the CYTED member countries and the policies of Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) that aim at addressing increasingly complex problems. The advances in new technologies, environmental challenges and social inclusion, as well as the need to seek a better balance in the participation of member countries, have required adapting the design and amplitude of the actions funded by CYTED.

The contribution of several other Latin American countries has significantly increased during the programme, a greater balance among countries has been consolidated in the orientation and management of the Programme, and it is now easy to identify the growing participation of academics, business representatives and experts from the different Latin American countries in CYTED-funded actions. Besides, a qualitative leap in terms of the confidence of the member countries in the administrative, economical and scientific management of CYTED has taken place in the last years, as can be illustrated by the

additional economic input that several countries have contributed as a means to fund the research groups involved in the recently launched “Projects on strategic issues” Calls.

Likewise, a process of redesign and restructuring of the CYTED Programme has been implemented in recent years, what is highlighted by the evaluation and review of the activities of the different areas and all the actions financed by the Programme. This process has allowed a greater emphasis on areas of strategic importance for science and innovation in which the demand for knowledge is higher. Besides, new lines of action have been designed, including the aforementioned “Projects on strategic issues” calls, and novel calls for “Latin American Technology-based business incubator networks” and grants for entrepreneurs from scientific parks in the region. In addition, CYTED has been a member of ERANet-LAC Project since its inception, where it has played a major role the technical implementation of public calls for research projects.

The sustained annual public calls and the accumulated learning and experience have consolidated CYTED as a major enforcer and coordinator of regional cooperation policies in science and technology in Ibero-America, both within the framework of the annual meetings of its Management Bodies and the significant amount of funded activities (mainly Thematic Networks, Research projects and Academic-Business fora). As a reference, the on-going 73 Thematic Networks and projects involve more than 5,000 researchers from 1070 groups and 180 companies, while more than 22,300 researchers and 877 companies from all the CYTED member countries have participated in the The-



matic Networks funded in the period 2005 - 2016, more than 3600 experts have attended the Academic-Business fora in the last three years, and more than 100 Iberoeka innovation projects have been certified in the last four years.

The high standards of quality of the results achieved by the emblematic instrument of CYTED (Thematic Networks) is supported not only by indicators of bibliographic production (impact factors and citations of the articles derived from the activities of Thematic Networks), but also by the social impact of the applications derived from the knowledge generated in these activities, most of which fall within the Sustainable Development Goals defined by the United Nations. As representative examples of this social impact, and as previously highlighted in the CYTED webpage, the projects developed by specific Thematic Networks have led to: 1) the promotion of the installation of solar thermal concentration systems in countries with a good level of direct solar radiation, a project derived from the previous knowledge and experience of the Spanish “Plataforma Solar de Almería”; 2) the development of pest control approaches based on the use of “natural enemies” for the production of healthy vegetables, a technology developed by a group of the University of Zamorano of Honduras that has achieved the cooperation of hundreds of Central American horticultural producers, and that has been transferred to fruit companies in Colombia, Costa Rica, Brazil and Peru; 3) the reduction of the environmental impact of industrial waste through recovery of the containing metals and the re-utilization of the latter for the production of nanostructured materials for detection of environmental impact chemical reagents, a project led by a group at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in coordination with nine other universities and two companies; 4) the establishment of the Thematic Network “VIRORED” for responding to epidemics of emerging viruses, which groups public health laboratories and universities of fifteen countries and devoted to the development, validation and transfer of diagnostic methodologies for Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika, Ebola and respiratory viruses; 5) the development of procedures for the sustainable use of marine resources, a project coordinated by a group at the Marine Sciences Institute of Cuba, and that promotes adaptation to climate change through the analysis of the biodiversity and ecosystems of coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves in active collaboration with production activities; 6) the generation

of a device for the universal access to cultural goods through the development of a technology that allows disabled users to enjoy audiovisual goods using smartphones or tablets; and 7) an initiative for Participatory Heritage Construction, coordinated by a Uruguayan group that has generated methodologies and standards for the development of two applications for mobile devices



Slovenian Research Agency – investing in national research shall lead to global advancements

József Györkös
Director of the Slovenian Research Agency.

The Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS) is the focal funding body, when it comes to supporting basic and applicative research with public funding and in public interest in Slovenia. Slovenia is a fairly small EU member in Central Europe, positioned at the crossroads between Mediterranean, Alps and Western Balkans region to the south. Albeit being small, a rich tradition of research has been nurtured in the territory of nowadays Slovenia for centuries.

Today's research landscape in Slovenia is vibrant, explicitly internationally oriented and high qualified. The latter is of vital importance to the ARRS – we are driven by the enhancement and support to scientific excellence. This may be supported by the fact that Slovenian research output in terms of top 10 % of highly cited publications rates at 80% above the EU average. The international collaboration viewed through, for example, co-authored publications scores at 30% above the EU average. While enhancement of excellence is at the forefront of the ARRS's mission, fostering internationally comparable evaluation standards in Slovenia, providing transparency of organising research community, further promoting international research cooperation, and analysing Research and Development (R&D) activities and providing science policy expertise do not fall short of being important either.

By funding research across all scientific domains, from life sciences to engineering, medical sciences, biotechnology to social sciences and humanities in an exclusive bottom-up manner, the ARRS provides Slovenian research community with scientific freedom to follow its own research interests, enables them

to react to latest developments or act as research needs arise. The split up of funding between so called core funding and competitive funding stands at the ratio of two thirds of funding allocated to core funding mechanisms (research programmes and infrastructure), while one third is allocated to mechanisms of competitive nature (research projects, and support to training and research careers development - Young researchers and postdoctoral projects). When using term Young researchers with a capital letter, we speak of a programme continuously in place for over 30 years that provides PhD students with fixed-term employment contracts, coverage of all social and health contributions, and material costs. The objective of this mechanism is to rejuvenate research groups and enable the circulation of fresh ideas and approaches. The programme is opened to PhD students of all nationalities that wish to conduct their PhD studies of Slovenia. To date, more than 5,000 young researchers have successfully completed the programme, including myself.

Challenges, however, derive from fast changes in research landscape, fast technological developments and wider societal challenges that demand responsive mode of research funders like the ARRS on a national level as well as on an European and global scale. The Science Europe, the umbrella organisation of 43 research funding and performing organisations based in Brussels provides a solid platform for close collaboration on a European scale. The newly nominated Governing Board of the Science Europe, where I act as a member, has just recently adopted its ambitious priority areas plan for the next two years. While prioritized issues like open science or



strengthening international cooperation by piloting a light new mechanism that may primarily rest on a European orientation, results and approaches that may be of use to national research funders or performers anywhere in the world.

On a global level and in view of establishing contacts with Latin American and Caribbean research funding organisations, annual meetings of the Global Research Council can provide a platform to establish contacts and consider closer collaborations among organisations and countries of interest.

When zooming-in on the cooperation between Slovenian and Latin-American and Caribbean researchers, a solid network of collaboration may be observed. Some relate to long-established collaborations in fields of particles physics, astronomy astrophysics or nuclear physics, and others most probably rest upon specialized knowledge of researchers in countries in question. These may be observed especially in specialized fields of medical research, like oncology, immunology or infectious diseases.

It may as well be that one of the most important linkages in the widest sense arises right from medical sciences, more precisely microbiology and immunology. After the epidemic infection of Zika virus, which has expanded in South and Central America and the Caribbean in 2015, the main concern associated with this infection has been an increased incidence of Microcephaly in fetuses born of infected mothers. In 2016 a research team at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ljubljana and University Medical Centre Ljubljana, headed by the academic Tatjana Avšič Županc, were the first to confirm the association between the Zika virus and Microcephaly. Once the suspect was confirmed the research could focus on identifying a suitable vaccine.

This is a prime example why national support of research is largely vital to our societies. Research is global and benefits of investing funds in one part of the world may prove to have an unprecedented value in the other part of the world. Or ideally – shall have an unprecedented value globally.



Towards an Ecological Market Economy: Implementing Sustainable Projects in Chile

Reinhard Stuth

Former Minister in Hamburg State Government and General Manager and partner of HanBao Neue Energien GmbH.

Sustainability is a megatrend of our decade - and far beyond. It is a comprehensive idea, a concept and a buzzword to be found all-around.

Everybody knows in principle: Our economies and our societies need sustainability for prosperity, quality of life, and global competitiveness. For some it is an inevitable expression of values. For others it is an issue of economic and financial rationality- thinking primarily of the high costs of non-sustainable behaviour.

However, the pure use of the word is boring some and needling others. Rightly so, because all too often it remains open what sustainability should mean. The idea has to come down from the clouds to the ground.

I suggest to comprehend sustainability as the conservative use of resources, nature and above all of human health. I also suggest to comprehend sustainability as avoidance to burden future generations, other countries or the whole society with the consequences of production, consumption and transport.

The examples of non-sustainable business are legion - all over our continents. Future generations will have to look after our nuclear waste even in 1.000 years from now. We export our electronic scrap to poor countries. We allow millions of tons of plastic waste to harm the marine environment. We burn coal in power plants thus curtailing the life expectancy of much too many people every year. We produce batteries more than ever and don't care about the disposition at the end of their life cycle. Everybody could add to this list.

Sustainability is a real global issue. All leaders both from the business and the political world truly know enough about the deficits and the needs for action. Science, media, churches and civic organisations provide us with all necessary information and subsumption.

All these observations apply to Chile, too. Sustainability enjoys some priority in Chile. And it has a lot of friends there.

Although the Chilean subsurface is rich of copper and many more minerals and other resources, the production gets more difficult. In some cases mining has to go underground. After centuries of exploitation the yield sometimes declines.

Moreover the water supply gets tight. The demand for water by mines, agriculture and municipal utilities becomes more competitive. The number of desalination plants is growing, despite of their extremely high energy demand for osmosis and - even much more - for pumping from 2.500 to 4.500 meters of altitude.

Actually the water supply in particular is affected by the climate change. Rivers bring less water from the Andes thus reducing the capacity of hydro power plants. Climate change means to Chile also higher temperatures and lower humidity. As a consequence forest fires cause ever bigger damages to infrastructure, plantations and private property. No doubt, at least part of the climate change is man-made.

All these developments secure high attention to sustainable projects in Chile. Sustainable mining, sustainable water and energy supply, sustainable agriculture are on top of the political



and business agenda. Politics, media and the general public endorse suitable projects and endeavours.

However, Chile follows since decades a clear market approach. Both, companies and government, like to take price-driven decisions. Quite a lot of entrepreneurs and decision makers sometimes calculate in the short-term. For some, the today's purchasing price matters more than the overall costs for the whole lifecycle.

The attitude towards innovation is a related one. Of course, innovation and new technologies are welcome. But the price decides. Perhaps, this might be one of the reasons why research and development have low priority in some companies. Innovation is not always considered an in-house issue. This observation is reflected in several of the international rankings and in OECD reports.

The leading universities and the government itself have realised this sustainability and innovation challenge. Today, any initiator of a project might get meaningful, high standard and innovative support by one of the newly establishes centres for applied sciences which transfer knowledge from universities to companies. To mention just a few: DICTUC S.A., a subsidiary of the School of Engineering, and the Centro de Innovación Anacleto Angelini, both of Pontificia Universidad Católica, the Universidad Austral in Valdivia and many more centres support the implementation of projects.

The government itself has established effective structures to support sustainable projects financially. CORFO (Corporación de Fomento de la Producción) as a government agency follows a clear strategy of innovation for selected branches, such as mining, solar energy and agriculture.

Therefore, the chances for bringing innovation and advanced technologies to Chile are good. But it helps to do even more of persuading. At the end one finds open minds.

EU-LAC Foundation's Activities



Seminar: Forging Bonds with Emigrants: Challenges for Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean

The EU- LAC Foundation organised a Seminar on Emigrant Policies in collaboration with the GIGA Institute and the CAF Development Bank of Latin America.

[...]

EU-CELAC Economic Forum- Channels for a joint future

The Foundation supported the Forum organised by Bruegel in Brussels in order to promote the analysis of the new geopolitical scenario and its effects on the EU and LAC regions.

[...]



Conference “Peace Agreements, Post-Conflict Society and Irregular Migration in El Salvador” with the Foreign Affairs Ministry of El Salvador, Hugo Martínez

The Foundation in cooperation with the Senate of the City of Hamburg, the Embassy of El Salvador in Berlin, and the GIGA Institute organised a GIGA Distinguished Speaker Lecture

[...]





II Congress of Political Sciences and International Relations “Global & Regional Scenario: A look from the South”ur

The Foundation presented the work carried out through a videoconference

[...]

International Colloquium: Which kind of universities does the 21st century need? From the student reform of Cordoba (1918) to the Guadalajara proposal (2017)

The Foundation supported and participated in the Colloquium held in Guadalajara, Mexico

[...]



RedGob Conference: The Sustainability of Democracy in the Trump Era

The EU-LAC Foundation supported the event in cooperation with the GIGA Institute in Hamburg and the IDEA Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance of Chile.

[...]

Latin American and the Caribbean Festival

The Foundation coordinated the “Lateinamerika Herbst” Festival held in Hamburg

[...]





Cooperation Agreement

The Foundation formalises partnership with the ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen)

[...]

Books presentation in Havana, Cuba

The Foundation launched the publication about the Caribbean together with the study on Food Security

[...]



Presentation of the publication “Latin America- The political year 2017”

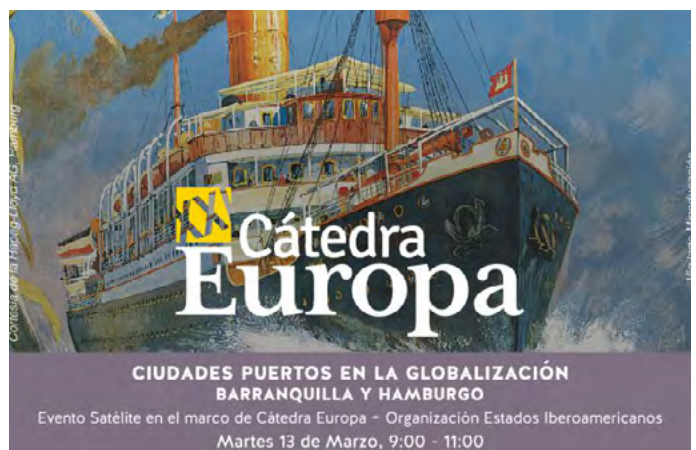
The Foundation in cooperation with the CERI- Science Po Paris and the GIGA Institute organised the presentation of the publication in Berlin.

[...]

Satellite event “Port cities in globalisation - Barranquilla and Hamburg”

The Foundation in cooperation with the Universidad del Norte and the OEI organised a satellite event in Bogota, Colombia

[...]





International Conference “Port Cities - Doors of Continents Barranquilla and the ports of Northern Europe: past and present”

The Foundation supported and participated in the International Conference held in Barranquilla, Colombia

[...]

Presentation of the Report “Why does Latin America matter?”

: The Foundation participated in the presentation of the Elcano Royal Institute Report “Why does Latin America matter?”, in Brussels.

[...]



The Elcano Royal Institute and Telefónica are pleased to invite you to a breakfast debate on

Why does Latin America matter?

March 20th, 2018
from 9:00 to 10:30

A recent published by Elcano highlights the potential offered by Latin America and the various benefits the EU could derive from strengthening bi-regional relations. In order to throw more light on these issues, a range of pertinent data, analyses and observations will be offered over the course of the presentation, focusing on the unity and diversity of Latin America, as well as on many of its strengths and some of its weaknesses.



Reflection Forum 2018

Representatives from the EU-LAC Foundation Members, academics and practitioners gathered for a dynamic dialogue in Bruges about “Why should the European Union (EU) be of relevance for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)? And why should LAC be of relevance for the EU?”.

[...]

Young Researchers

-
Glaudio García

Assessing intra-regional pharmaceutical policies in LAC and the EU based on the WHO universal access to medicines framework

Medicines are a basic element in the provision of health. However, the high cost of some medications is hindering the stability of healthcare systems regardless the level of income of countries. Governments are addressing this problem by prioritising health in their national and foreign policies.

At the supranational level, regional organisations have been fora for creating action plans, disseminating and sharing information as well as generating capacity building. Consequently, they have quickly become fundamental to the successful promotion of sustainable pharmaceutical policies.

This working paper assesses the effectiveness of the implementation of pharmaceutical policies undertaken by LAC and the EU under the universal access to medicines framework generated by the WHO, by looking at the conditions of willingness, acceptance and capacity of these regional organisations.

Results show that engagement in international forums is encouraging positive outcomes in the formulation of regional pharmaceutical policies for improving access to medicines based on the globally-accepted frameworks. Moreover, regional organisations have turned out to be the most effective space for the promotion and implementation of such national pharmaceutical policies, as these are prone to be accepted with less opposition in each nation when a regional organisation backs them up.

[...]

The selection of the Young Researcher project is done through a call published on the EU-LAC Foundation social networks and website.

Publications



EU-LAC FOUNDATION

EU-LAC Foundation. (2017)

Vademecum on EU- Cooperation Programmes with LAC. EU-LAC

EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

U-LAC Foundation, CERALE, Institut des Amériques (2017)

The Internationalisation of Latin American SMEs and their Projection in Europe.

EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

Botella Rodríguez, E., James Heredia, J., Velasco, G. K. (2017)

Food Security in the European Union, Latin American and the Caribbean: The Cases of Cuba and Spain

EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

Sánchez, F. & Hernández Nieto, R. (2017)

Institutional and regulatory foundations for the establishment of the European, Latin American and Caribbean Area for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.

EU-LAC Foundation, FLACSO Spain and University of Salamanca.

EU-LAC Foundation. (2017)

The Caribbean in the EU-CELAC Partnership.

EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

Events of the Foundation



15th May

[Long Evening of the Consulates 2018](#)

Hamburg, Germany

23rd June

[The EU-CELAC agenda in times of global interregionalism](#)

Barcelona, Spain

30-31 May

[International Colloquium IdA- EU-LAC Foundation: Sustainable Cities in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean as a driver of social transformation](#)

Paris, France

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