ERANet LAC

Network of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean Countries
on Joint Innovation and Research Activities

Call for expression of interest
Pilot Coordination Actions (PCA)

Promoting mutual opening and coordination of existing programmes

Opening of the call:	5th June 2014
Deadline for submission:	1st October 2014
Assessment decision meeting:	December 2014
Starting activities:	January 2015

Call for Expression of Interest available on the **ERANet-LAC website**.
Please contact the Common helpdesk (IRD and CONICYT) at **pca@eranet-lac.eu.**

The proposal has to be submitted by the coordinator of the project to IRD & CONICYT at pca@eranet-lac.eu before the 1st October 2014, 17.00 PM Brussels time. A helpdesk will be ensured during the opening of the call at this email-address.

For further details:
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Content

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Background information

ERANet-LAC is a Network of the European Union (EU), Latin America and the Caribbean Countries (CELAC) funded by the European Commission within the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technology Development (FP7).

The project supports the political process of implementing the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI) and strengthens the bi-regional partnership in Science, Technology and Innovation by planning and implementing concrete joint activities and by establishing an innovative and sustainable framework for future bi-regional joint activities.

Thus, the ERANet-LAC project aims at developing and implementing strategic joint activities involving funding agencies and other actors from both regions, following two approaches:

- **ERANet-LAC implements "Pilot Coordination Actions" promoting mutual opening and coordination of existing European, Latin-American and Caribbean research and innovation programmes and infrastructures.**
  In order to support the establishment of common objectives and the coordination of research and innovation agendas, ERANet-LAC supports groups of STI institutions willing to coordinate and open their initiatives to EU and LAC participation. Through the Pilot Coordination Actions, the ERANET LAC will offer technical and financial support for strategic meetings in order to establish a long-lasting frame for coordination of programmes. With a bottom-up approach, the thematic priorities will be defined by the interested research and innovation actors.

- ERANet-LAC implements two **Joint Calls** for project financed by research and Innovation agencies from CELAC and EU. The topics for the joint calls will be recommended by the EU-CELAC SOM (Senior Officials' Meeting) and by other relevant thematic initiatives.

The present Call for Expression of Interest applies to first approach: the pilot coordination actions.

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What is a Pilot Coordination Action (PCA)?

✓ Build a partnership between EU and CELAC research and innovation programmes

    ✓ Identify the steps paving the way to coordinated activities or agreement

    ✓ Organize strategic meetings between partners to take the planned steps

    ✓ Build the feasibility plan towards a long-term framework for cooperation

What support is given for implementing the PCA?

ERANet-LAC will support the **organization of working meetings** aimed at creating complementarities and defining common research agendas or a roadmap including conditions for long-term mutual opening of programmes with the following support:

- **Technical support** for the organization of the meetings including logistics
- **Maximum financial support** per Pilot Coordination Action: **15.000€**

The management of funding will be ensured by the ERANet-LAC partners.
Eligible expenses: travel costs, meeting costs (limited to room rental).

What are the main objectives of the PCA?

Global objectives

→ Develop sustainable cooperation between EU and CELAC research and innovation actors through the coordination of **existing** research and innovation programmes carried out at national or regional level, in the EU and Latin-America, with a view to their mutual opening and the development and implementation of joint activities.

→ Help national and regional research programmes to **improve their impact at bi-regional level by widening their partnership and by promoting the establishment of common objectives and cooperation agendas.**

→ Promote innovative ways of opening and connecting existing research and innovation funding programmes

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Specific objectives

3 different objectives can be targeted by the Pilot Coordination Actions:

1. Clustering or coordination of bilateral/multilateral **funding research programmes**

This type of pilot coordination action will contribute to, for example:

- ➢ Create a critical mass in a given field of research by coordinating the objectives and actions of different research programmes and by clustering their human and financial resources;
- ➢ Stimulate and expand the internationalization of national programmes and projects to help them to reinforce their bi-regional action;
- ➢ Integrate mobility and capacity-building into other EU-CELAC research programmes;
- ➢ Coordinate the research agenda of different EU-CELAC programmes targeting the same fields of research. Moving on toward twinning;
- ➢ Coordinate European *Strategic Research Agendas* of *Joint Programming Initiatives* (JPIs) with programmes of CELAC funding agencies.

2. Promoting the mutual opening of **infrastructures**

This type of pilot coordination action will promote, for example:

- ➢ The opening of existing research infrastructures (e.g. laboratories) with a view to establish eventually joint structures and/or a common 'open door' policy, trying to reinforce EU and LAC researchers' access to infrastructures (integration of mobility and capacity building programmes);
- ➢ Long-term frame for coordination of funding programmes that support the creation of International Joint Laboratories Network.

3. Promoting opening and coordination of **innovation programmes**

This type of pilot action will promote the coordination of innovation programmes in order to enhance their impact at regional level in the EU and the CELAC region, for example:

- ➢ Twinning or mutual opening of innovation programmes aimed at the internationalization of clusters;
- ➢ Coordination of exchange programmes targeting Technology Transfer Offices (TTO) or Knowledge Transfer Offices (KTO) in order to enhance bi-regional capacities to support innovation.

With the perspective of promoting the biregional dimension, the partnership composed for proposal will include 2 partners from the CELAC and 2 partners from the EU.

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Who can apply?

Key target group:

➢ **European Union and Latin American and Caribbean research and innovation programme owners and managers**

- **Programme owners** are national ministries, agencies and research councils, as well as regional authorities, defining research priorities and programmes. The programmes must be funded nationally or internationally.

- **Programme managers** are national or regional research councils and funding agencies managing research programmes. In some countries this role can be delegated to other kind of institutions such as research centres. The programmes must be funded nationally or internationally.

- **Specific audience for infrastructures:** institutions managing and/or funding research and innovation infrastructures.

- **Specific audience for innovation programmes:** innovation actors, such as innovation funding agencies, technology clusters and platforms, industrial associations, EEN (Europe Enterprise Network), specific development banks.

➢ **The decision making capacity of the programme owners and managers upon the programmes involved in the PCA will be assessed**.

Eligibility condition:

➢ At least 2 partners from the LAC region and 2 partners from the EU

Participation of ERANet-LAC partners:

➢ ERANet-LAC partners are encouraged to be part of pilot coordination actions.

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Which programmes can be part of a PCA?

Since the PCA promotes a bottom-up approach, they will support the clustering, coordination and mutual opening of all types of national or regional research and innovation programmes in Europe and Latin-America.

The main eligibility rule is that each coordination action must involve at least two EU and two CELAC institutions.

As the aim of PCA consists in identifying innovative ways of enhancing the impact and coordinating existing programmes, the PCA can combine very diverse and innovative partnerships. Programmes being coordinated may not have yet programmes with a bi-regional dimension but they must be willing to open or coordinate their programmes with the members of the PCA.

Taking into account the bottom-up approach, here are some examples of programmes that could be part of PCA (this list is not exhaustive and does not exclude other types of programmes and coordination action not mentioned below):

➢ Programmes financing bilateral mobility between EU countries and CELAC countries can propose a PCA. It would aim at coordinating part of their action in order to enhance their impact. Through the PCA, the programme managers receive support to organize a meeting that will help them to define a coordination strategy and the related action plan. At the end of the PCA, the coordination strategy is launched and the first common action is implemented (i.e. common thematic priorities identified and the contribution of each programme to exchanges on those priorities clearly defined).

➢ A CELAC research programme is put in place to establish a regional thematic research network. The programme managers are willing to open this network to EU participation. Through the PCA, they receive support to organize a meeting to define the modalities of participation of EU partners to the CELAC initiative. At the end of the PCA, the foundations are built for a biregional research network combining resources of different EU and CELAC institutions. As a result, an action plan with common actions and contributions of each partner is defined.

➢ A bilateral joint lab is willing to open its activities and infrastructures to other EU and CELAC partners. The PCA will support the organization of the meeting leading to a MoU signed within the partners, accompanied by an action plan presenting the activities that will support the opening of the joint lab and the resources devoted by each partner to the activities covered by the agreement.

➢ Innovation agencies from EU and CELAC finance the organization of exchanges among clusters, Start-Up programmes, Technology Transfer Offices (if managing programmes). Through the PCA, the innovation programme managers organize meetings to evaluate the feasibility of a joint programme combining the existing instruments of each agency in order to increase the impact of their individual programmes. Those meetings will lead to the establishment of an agreement for the coordination of such programmes.

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Expected results

The expected result will be achieved by building a **feasibility plan, a Memorandum of Understanding or another kind of formal agreement** involving:

- The definition of a long-term cooperation framework: activities to be coordinated, action plan for the implementation of joint actions.
- A financial strategy supporting the implementation of the agreement: contribution of each partner, allocation of resources to activities covered by the agreement.

Duration of the PCA to reach these results: **18 months maximum**.

Evaluation procedure

Please refer to the Evaluation Grid.

Procedure for selection of external evaluators:
A panel of up to 4 external evaluators will be selected for the proposals evaluation

Schedule:
After the closing of the call, the external evaluators will have one month to examine the proposals. After that, an evaluation meeting will be held between evaluators and the Pilot Coordination Actions team. The assessment decision will be finally submitted to the coordination team of ERANet-LAC in December 2014 in order to start the meetings in 2015.

External evaluators will examine the proposals according to the following criteria (refer to the evaluation grid for further details in Annex 1):
- ➢ Consistency of general concept
- ➢ Quality of the partnership
- ➢ Impact and sustainability

Applying procedure

Application must be sent by the leading institution and will include:

- ❒ Application form filled in
- ❒ Annex A: letter of intent signed by the lead institution
- ❒ Any additional information if relevant

- → Deadline for submission: **1st October 2014**
- → Assessment decision meeting: **December 2014**
- → Launch of the meetings activities: **January 2015**

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Annex 1: Evaluation grid

		ERANet-LAC Pilot Coordination Actions Evaluation grid - Call for Expression of Interest			
N°	**Criteria**	**Indicators**	**Proposal template reference for notation**	**Score**	**Weight**
1	**Consistency of general concept**	a. Relevance of the coordination action to the aims of the Call for Expression of Interest b. Relevance of the objectives with the Terms of Reference c. Consistent scale (ambitious but realistic) d. Added-value and innovative positioning	a. Presentation of programmes being coordinated (I. 1) b. Objectives of the coordination action (I. 2) c. Scope of the proposal (geographical, institutional) (I. 3) d. Added-value to the existing cooperation (I. 4)	0-5	35%
2	**Quality of partnership**	a. (Collectively) Representativeness of geographical diversity of EU-CELAC b. (Individually) Experience of partners on bilateral-biregional cooperation c. (Collectively) Complementarity among partners d. (Individually and collectively) Innovative partnership	a. List of partipants and respective countries (II. 1) b. Experience on bilateral-multilateral cooperation (II. 2) c. Complementary among partners (II. 3) d. Innovative partnership (II. 4)	0-5	30%
3	**Impact and sustainability**	a. Activities establishing long-lasting frame for coordination of programmes b. Schedule of the activities and meetings c. Budget distribution d. Quality of the feasibility plan	a. Description of activities and milestones (III. 1) b. Schedule of the activities and meetings (III. 2) c. Budget distribution (III. 3) d. Expected results of the feasibility plan on the existing biregional cooperation scheme (III. 4)	0-5	35%
	Total score:		...	0-15	100%
Global appreciation, comments and recommendations: (strenghts and weaknesses)		...			

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