



**For Immediate Release**



## **1<sup>st</sup> EU-LAC HEALTH ROADMAPPING WORKSHOP**

### **ELABORATING THE SCIENTIFIC SCOPE AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EU-LAC HEALTH RESEARCH ROADMAP**

**Mexico City, 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

Health research experts, research programme managers and decision makers from Europe (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), as well as EU-LAC Health Advisory Board Members and project partners joined on 16 – 17 October in Mexico City for two days with the objective to hold the first Roadmapping-Workshop. The experts came together to discuss three different dimensions of the roadmap to be developed: the scientific, the governance and the funding dimension. Outcomes from the different expert discussions will flow into the future Roadmap that will give answers to questions such as “how can EU-LAC cooperation in health research be financed efficiently?”, “what governance structures will be needed?”, “which scientific areas would be enriched through a bi-regional cooperation”?

EU-LAC Health is a 5-year project co-financed by the European Union through the 7th Framework Program (Health theme). Its aim is to establish a consensus roadmap for cooperative health research between the EU and LAC. This roadmap will be continuously developed including discussions and the advice of active scientists, policy-makers, programme owners and other stakeholders. The overall objective is an efficient coordination of health research policies and funding that will be beneficial for both sides.



After the welcome by Dr. Malaquias López-Cervantes from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), the workshop was opened by the EU-LAC Health project team emphasizing the importance of international research cooperation especially in health research as well as clarifying the vision & the mission of the ambitious project to the audience.



*Project Coordinated by the Institute of Health Carlos III. Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness.  
Monforte de Lemos 5. E-28029. Madrid. SPAIN.*

[eulachealth@isciii.es](mailto:eulachealth@isciii.es)

T: +34 -918 222 272 F: +34- 913 877 83

[www.eulachealth.eu](http://www.eulachealth.eu)

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*EU-LAC HEALTH (Defining a Roadmap for Cooperative Health research between the EU and Latin America-Caribbean countries: a Policy Oriented Approach*

Scientific areas of potential mutual interest for EU and LAC regions identified for the scientific part of the roadmap were determined via a questionnaire directed to qualified institutions of countries belonging to both regions (e.g. research and health ministries). Determined health research areas important for both regions are: Infection, Chronic diseases, Health and Social Care Services Research, Cancer, Neurological Diseases and stroke as well as Prevention of diseases and promotion of well-being. The scientific discussions on these six different areas were introduced by a presentation of a review on the state-of-the-art of each area. Following this, the content was analyzed focused on four different fields within the discussion groups: 1. what is the added value derived through EU-LAC health research cooperation in this specific field and is it well stated? 2. Would EU-LAC health research cooperation in this area be feasible? 3. What will the long-term impact of cooperation in this area be? 4. How would you prioritize the topics identified?

The specification of scientific fields was complemented by discussions regarding the possible governance structure of an institutionalized EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on health research as well as discussions on how to finance it. Governance issues were discussed by means of further developing the values and principles of a "Governing Body", such as Excellence, Tackling Global Challenges, Co-Responsibility, Inclusiveness, and further elaborating principles such as Co-Ownership, Variable geometry, Virtual common Pots, Brain-Circulation and Open-Access. The governance structure to be developed has to be oriented towards the needs of the scientific community, of policy-makers as well as the needs of funding agencies. Discussions on funding focused on identifying different research activities that need to be financed when collaborating and trying to estimate an adequate budget for such research collaboration.

The possibility of launching a pilot EU-LAC joint call in the area of health research via the new ERANet-LAC was discussed. It was commonly agreed that a pilot joint call between both regions would be an important milestone that could function as a best-practice example for the project as well as towards a more institutionalized EU-LAC health research cooperation. The EU-LAC Health project would – from the basic work already done by the project – be able to suggest specific EU-LAC health research topics to the ERANet-LAC. A joint call together with the ERANet-LAC may be implemented at the end of 2014.

Outcomes and results of all active discussions will be used to further develop the roadmap. The feedback from the discussions and the enthusiastic and committed reactions of the audience showed that there is a great potential and need for a common and effective approach to institutionalize EU-LAC cooperation in health research.

The next EU-LAC Health workshop will most likely take place in Madrid during the last week of February 2014.

Project-Homepage with a project description, information material, flyer and a complete list of the project partners under: [www.eulachealth.eu](http://www.eulachealth.eu)

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



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