

FORESTA Newsletter

Editorial

Dear Reader,

Thank you for choosing to read our newsletter. These are thriving times for international cooperation in the field of ICT research between the European Union and Latin American and the Caribbean countries. The European Union policy of aids and cooperation is long gone history for some of those countries that are worlds on their own in terms of scientific research and technology. The participation in the Framework Programme of Latin American organizations is flourishing and key organizations from governments, universities and the industry are taking part in the constellation of Euro-LA projects and initiatives in the field of European research and related to FP6 and FP7. The governments of four Latin American countries, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico, have signed a Science & Technology Agreement with the European Union, and other countries, like Colombia, are in the process of adopting European technology standards. Scientific priorities are an investment for today, but markets they will generate are a bet for tomorrow. It is in this scope that the FORESTA action has been designed.

The European Commission's commitment to strengthen collaboration in ICT research with Latin America has been clear for some years and FORESTA has the privilege to

have been selected to contribute to the continuity and facilitation of this endeavor, by targeting those five countries in their relations with the EU.

Our project aims to bring valuable inputs to the priority setting process and negotiations between Latin American countries and the EU, as well as bringing news and information back to the scientific community for better positioning and road mapping. In its action to support the research dimension of policy dialogue the project targets ministries, research agencies, universities and technological organizations, associations and chambers of commerce, industries, SME's and other stakeholders from Latin America and Europe. FORESTA will also organize a series of conferences aimed to bring Latin American and European stakeholders together around concrete opportunities for collaboration on new projects, while supporting and facilitating the development of such new partnerships. The project has officially started on 1st January 2010 and is proud to present to you its Newsletter, which will accompany you through the next two years to follow-up on the progress of policy dialogue in the region, on relevant news and events, as well as other initiatives supported by other projects in related fields.

Highlights

- FORESTA starts operations
- EU-LAC Ministerial Forum on the Information Society, La Granja de San Ildefonso. (Spain)
- EU--LAC ICT Gateway: 3 initiatives join forces.

In particular FORESTA has joined forces with two other projects PRO IDEAL PLUS and FIRST, which have agreed to work in a complementary and synergic way to strengthen the overall impact of the actions and by reaching more consistently our beneficiaries.

The FORESTA website will have updated information on the project activities and news and is available at www.forestaproject.eu. The website can also be accessed through the EU-Latin America ICT Gateway common entry page for projects FORESTA, FIRST and PRO IDEAL PLUS, www.lac-ictgateway.eu.

Mr. Gian Michele Mosca
TESEO Sprl, Project Coordinator

FORESTA starts operations



FORESTA Kick-off meeting group picture

Structure

The project is structured in two main blocks of activities: one looking at immediate opportunities for cooperation between researchers of the two communities (Europe and Latin America) via the organization and follow-up of conferences in the five target countries, the other one looking at long-term perspectives. This latter evolves around two sets of activities:

- a) analysis of current ICT policies in the region and identification of key research issues to address in the future;
- b) recommendations on how to make a better use of support instruments to ICT research cooperation (European or national funding programs and other initiatives).

FORESTA starts operations

Objectives

- a) To set up a cycle of five large brokerage conferences in support to the policy dialogue in ICT between the target countries and the European Union.
- b) To run a Foresight study on ICT research orientation in Latin America.

Expected Impact

- a) Foster cooperation between the five target countries and the EU;
- b) Pave the way for other policy dialogues with other Latin American countries.

Consortium

Technical Support for European Organizations Sprl	TESEO	Belgium
ROSE Vision	ROSE	Spain
Europe for Business Ltd.	EFB	UK
Sao Paulo University	UPS	Brazil
Palermo University	UP	Argentina
Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana	UTEM	Chile
Centro de Investigación de las Telecomunicaciones de Colombia	CINTEL	Colombia
Federación de Asociaciones de Latinoamérica el Caribe y España de Entidades de Tecnologías de la Información	ALETI	Caribbean
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey	ITESM	Mexico

Policy News

European, Latin America and the Caribbean ministers prepare future directions for ICT Policy.

La Granja de San Ildefonso (Spain), 14-15 March 2010.

The forum was a preparatory activity for the EU-LAC Summit in Madrid on 18th of May 2010. It was supported by the European Commission and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The EU and Latin America & the Caribbean agree upon the importance of ICT in development, economic growth, social inclusion and job creation as well as about creating a more competitive economy, being sustainable and eco-efficient. ICT policy should be integrated with other policies, to take effect on all of them, as the impact is broader than on specific Sector. The participants considered the extension of broadband key for further improvement and development. The Information Society is not just infrastructure: development in content and services is required in the new society. The declaration of this forum covers other additional points, like the importance of a multicultural presence online, and the more active role of government.

More information:
<http://www.eu2010.es/en/agenda/otrasreunionesministeriales/eve nto0141.html>

Innovation and knowledge strategic pillar for EU-LAC Cooperation

The European Union and Latin America are strongly tied historically, culturally and economically. A close cooperation at international level with intensive political dialogues on regional, sub regional and also more and more at bilateral level took place.

EU, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Summits takes place every two years since 1999, alternated by meetings on a Ministerial level between EU and the Rio group. During the 6th EU LAC Summit approximately sixty heads of state and government met on the 18 May 2010 in Madrid, Spain.

The central theme was "Towards a new phase of the bi-regional association: innovation and technology for sustainable development and social inclusion". The agreed upon "Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012" considers to strengthen the integration of both regions in the Information Society and support the development of the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector, an increase of interconnectivity between the education and research networks, and develop regulation models for the communication sector, and in the audiovisual field among others.

More information:
http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/lac/index_en.htm

EU-LAC ICT Gateway

3 Initiatives join forces: Your portal for ICT in Latin America

In order to provide a common jump start for FORESTA, PRODEAL PLUS and FIRST, a common entry point has been created. Such website presents a brief description in three different languages (English, Spanish and Portuguese) of each of the three projects and allows the user to jump from one site to another easily. It also shows how these three projects work side by side and complement each other so that the user understands and discovers other opportunities in which can participate.

EU-LAC ICT Gateway

First

FIRST aims to further improve cooperation between Europe and Latin America focusing on the field of Future Internet, ICT components and systems. The central goal of the project is to adapt the successful concept of European Technology Platforms (ETPs) to the Latin American Region, and launch 5 Technology Platforms focused on Future Internet, in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico, bringing cooperation between Europe and Latin America in the ICT R&D field to a new level.

PRO-IDEAL Plus

PRO-IDEAL and PRO-IDEAL PLUS promote the ICT dialogue and support the ICT R&D cooperation between Europe and Latin America through on-line tools (ICT Wiki, training modules, partner search) and face-to-face events (ICT Days and ICT Fora). Furthermore, local "Project Angels" are trained to create a sustainable support network in Latin American countries.



The project aims to promote research cooperation between the European Community and Latin America (EU-LA) in terms of Information Technology to identify research opportunities between communities and examine the IT policies in each country to identify the main future complications for researchers (and how to make best use of instruments of support among the communities to avoid such complications)

¡We encourage everyone to visit the website and discover what the European Union and Latin American are working in!

www.lac-ictgateway.eu

News from the region

1st ICT Day on LAC-EU ICT R&D Collaboration – A great success

The first PRO IDEAL PLUS ICT Day took place in San Jose, Costa Rica on 16 of February 2010, organized by the Costa Rican Chamber of Information and Communications Technologies (CAMTIC) and supported by the EC International Relations Unit. The ICT Day attracted over 55 participants representing universities, research centers, local and international companies, SMEs, civil society organizations and other ICT policy makers and stakeholders.

Ms Clotilde Fonseca, the new Minister of Science and Technology of the Costa Rican government and then executive director of the Omar Dengo Foundation that hosted the event, opened the morning session. It focused on highlighting the opportunities for research cooperation with Europe and the need to forge the ICT policy dialogue between the EU and LAC. A practical training session run by the PRO-IDEAL PLUS team started the afternoon workshop, familiarizing participants with EU Funding principles and "myths and legends" about EU proposal writing, followed by interactive roundtable discussions on project ideas.



Learn more about the ICT Day: http://www.pro-ideal.eu/ICT_day_san_Jose.

ICT WIKI – Your Tool through the Maze of the ICT Programme

The PRO-IDEAL project developed an ICT Wiki that provides users with alphabetical keywords of the ICT programme, easy explanations of EU jargon, and direct links to the DG INFSO and CORDIS related web pages. Visit www.pro-ideal.eu/wiki and discover the ICT programme in an easy way!

Other initiatives in the region related to the thematic area:

INCONet-EULARINET Project (Coordinating Latin America Research and Innovation NETWORKs) is a 4 years Coordination Action whose main goal is to strengthen bi-regional dialogue on S&T between EU Member States (MS), Associated States (AS) and Latin American Partner Countries (LAPC) at policy, program and institutional (research entities) level.

News from other projects



SALA3D gives a new boost to EU-LA cooperation in Networked Media

In the framework of the ICT dialogue between Europe and Latin America, Networked Media and 3D Internet represents an enormous asset to be exploited.

The SALA3D project takes up this challenge with the aim to develop cooperative research roadmaps for EU and Colombia and Uruguay, being the latter countries in the best position to collaborate with Europe in this technological field. Forthcoming Framework Programme 7 ICT Calls 7 and 8 will offer new opportunities for excellent organisations from Colombia and Uruguay (including industries and SME's, Universities and Research centres) to cooperate with European peer partners. The SALA3D consortium has already produced key inputs to this goal as it has issued specific proposals for the delineation of future EU-Colombia and EU-Uruguay cooperative research to be included in the ICT Work Programmes for 2011-2013. Effort will continue in the next two years to perform a comprehensive assessment of the countries' research potential and trigger successful cooperative paths. SALA3D is participated by AETIC, the Spanish association of ICT industries; CINTEL, the centre for telecommunication research of Colombia; CIU, the industry chamber of Uruguay; and TESEO, Brussels based consultancy on EU RTD programmes.

For more info, please contact project coordinator (jsesena@aetic.es) or visit SALA3D website www.sala3d.eu

FORESTA activities and results

Argentina

Engineer Esteban Di Tada, Dean of the UP, presented FORESTA's project under the framework of the "Jornada de Cooperación Unión Europea - Argentina en el campo de Internet del Futuro y Componentes TIC" (European Union Cooperation Day - Argentina in the field of Future Internet and ICT components). Event organized by ALETI.



Chile

Last April 22, Hector Torres and Andrea Ordenes as representatives of the FORESTA project participated in the launching workshop of the project FIRST in Chile. Mr. Torres presented a overview of the ProteinLab work as a center for ICT R&D and explained the proposals and main objectives of FORESTA.

They also had meetings with of the officials of the European Union Program in Chile and the Executive Secretariat of Digital Strategy (dependant of the Economy Ministry of Chilean Government.) Product of this last meeting an important official sponsorship from Digital strategy was achieved.

On April 29, they had a meeting with the Director of the National University Network ity Network REUNA (Universities consortium for Internet2 and advanced academic networks accessing). REUNA offered support to organize by June 2010 a workshop by videoconference with the different national universities that belong to this consortium to promote analysis of ICT research in Chile.

Contact us:

For general information about FORESTA project please visit our website or contact the project coordinator

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