



ResInfra
EU-LAC

EU LAC ResInfra

D.6.3 Final Conference Conclusions



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Introduction

The main goal of the H2020 EU-LAC ResInfra project is to enhance the bi-regional European and Latin America and Caribbean collaboration on Research Infrastructures.

The Project will build on the outputs of the SOM EU-CELAC Research Infrastructures Working Group (RI WG), supporting it in the developing of concrete actions through a number of selected Pilots which will help to prove the feasibility of the collaboration and to boost it. Also, the project will help the WG in the definition of a Sustainability Plan for a future stable and solid collaboration.

Under Work package 6, the EU LAC RESINFRA project aims to develop an effective strategy to communicate, disseminate the project activities, results and outcomes in order to optimize them, **generating impact and sustainability beyond the consortium**, as well as fostering the engagement of different target groups. In this sense, the project foreseen the organization of a Final Conference.

The present document summarises the dialogue and the conclusions held during the EU LAC RESINFRA Final Conference held back-to-back to the ICRI 2022 International conference on 18 October 2022 in Brno, Czech Republic.

The EU LAC RESINFRA Conference took place as a Satellite event of the ICRI 2022 the previous day of start the International Conference.

1. BACKGROUND

The EU LAC RESINFRA final conference of the project was originally foreseen to take place in M30 (following the Gantt chart of the project) being a 2-day conference, taking place in Europe, with a twofold goal:

- Summarising the most relevant discussions, conclusions and outcomes of the project;
- Providing an open debate and recommendations for the future EU-LAC cooperation on research Infrastructures, building upon the 5-year Sustainability Plan written under Work package 5.

Additionally, it was foreseen the following logistical and organizational matters:

It was expected a participation of around 80 participants. The core target group of attendants (which would be duly invited) comprise high representatives of EU and LAC ministries and secretaries with competences in the field of R&I; SOM delegates; EU and LAC R&I funding agencies; EU and LAC Research Infrastructures representatives; LAC countries' Science Counsellors at the respective embassies in Brussels and representatives of the European Commission. Still, the Conference is expected to be open for the public, upon registration. Live streaming of the event would be assured for those not able to physically attend the event.

Wide dissemination of the Conference would be undertaken in due time. Periodical announcements will be made at the project's website and social media, as well as through the partners' digital media tools. Dissemination of the Conference will also be secured through the Events page of DG RTD and through websites of key stakeholders, such as ESFRI, MERIL, RISCAPÉ and of all the Research Infrastructures in EU and LAC involved somehow in the project. Dissemination and engagement of social communication will also be timely ensured, in order to maximize the external visibility and impact of the event.

A first "*save the date*" invitation to the core target group would be sent on M18, 1 year ahead of the Conference, after defining the dates and place of the event. A draft programme of the Conference will be released by M22, including names of speakers, even if with a TBC status. Periodical reminders to register at the Conference will be sent out every two months up to M24, when reminders will become monthly. The overall logistics of the event (venue, suggestion of hotels, catering, etc.) is expected to be fully arranged by M24.

A Background Paper, working as a general executive summary of the project main outcomes, will be prepared and distributed to registered attendants up to 3 weeks before the event. A Citizens' Summary of the Sustainability Plan of task 4.1 will also be produced and distributed alongside.

A Pre-Conference Webinar will be organized within the 2 weeks before the Conference. The goal of this webinar is to present the discussion questions that will guide the debate during the Final Conference, as well as to briefly present the Background Paper and the Citizens' Summary of the Sustainability Plan, ultimately ensuring all the attendants have the same level of information and are duly prepared to take part at the Conference on a constructive manner.

2. EU LAC RESINFRA FINAL CONFERENCE

On October 18, 2022, EU-LAC Resinfra held its Final Conference, a satellite that served as a forum for discussion on the positive impact of research infrastructure projects in Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean

2.1. Previous organisation

The EU LAC RESINFRA consortium decided in the occasion of the organization of the ICRI22 and the amount of stakeholders attending the conference to celebrate the EU LAC RESINFRA Confernece as a side event of the ICRI22.

In the Steering Comitte of the project held in September 2021 was agreed submitting an aplication form in order to organise an ICRI 2022 satellite or side event.

In march 2022, the application form was submitted by the project coordinator. In the application form was explained that the main objective of the event would be serving as a Final Conference of the project, trynig to link with the meeting of the SOM of the EU-CELAC JIRI and serving to give visibility to the work done in the H2020 Project and to pass over to the EU-CELAC WG the sustainability plan developed in the context of the project EU LAC RESINFRA for a sustainable collaboration on the RI among both regions.

2.2. Participants

In total, 54 attendants participated in the conference in persone, and more that 20 by virtual means.

The participants represented the following stakeholders:

- Research Infrastructures (Instruct ERIC, Lifewatch ERIC, E-RIHS, CIEMAT)

- Ministries of Science and Technology (MICIN Spain, MEC Uruguay, MINCIENCIAS Colombia, MICITT Costa Rica, Ministero dell'università e della ricerca - MUR Italy)
- Funding Agencies (CONCITEC Peru, AEI Spain, FCT Portugal, ANID Chile, CONACYT México, CNPQ Brazil, CNR Italy, AUCI Uruguay, CeNAT/CONARE Costa Rica, UEFISCDI Romania)
- Universities (Sao Paolo University, Universidad de la Republica Uruguay, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Universidad de Antioquia)
- Research centres (Institut Pasteur Montevideo, Universidad de Buenos Aires, IBR CONICET, DLR - German Aerospace Center, VTT Finland, INACH - Instituto Antártico chileno, EFIS Centre),
- other initiatives and projects (MOSBRI, RI-VIS, ENRICH, Red Clara, eBRAINS, Joint Institute for VLBI ERIC, Global Change Research Institute, CAS, FECYT, SPI - Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação, Innotrope)
- European Commision

2.3. Format

The format of the workshop was hybrid. The invitation for both means, presential and virtual, which was widely disseminated among research infrastructure stakeholders in LAC and the EU, will entail the link for pre-registration on the virtual platform used.

The workshop was conducted in English with some participations in Spanish.

The workshop was partially recorded by the ICRI22 organization and the EU LAC RESINFRA project, being published the video pills on the project website (<https://resinfra-eulac.eu/>) and disseminate it among the participants and social media channels.

2.4. The Conference

2.4.1. Welcome and presentation of the EU LAC ResInfra project

The event began with welcoming remarks by deputy project coordinator Sabina Guaylupo and Claudia Romano from MEC/AUCI Uruguay, who expressed gratitude to the participants who were present physically , as well as those who joined online. The presenters also acknowledged the work of Inmaculada Figueroa from MICIN, Spain, the project coordinator, who was unable to attend the conference.

After the welcoming ceremony, the EU LAC RESINFRA project was presented, explaining its context and background: The key EU-CELAC Summit held in Madrid, 2010; the creation of the EU-CELAC Knowledge Area; the initiative JIRI – Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation and the importance of the EU-CELAC SOM meetings, especially the 5th JIRI SOM Brussels 2016 where the international outreach of RI as a strategic pillar for EU-CELAC Common Research Area (CRA)

was enhanced and the 6th JIRI SOM Brussels 2017 where a EU-CELAC WG on RI was established with the mandate of information exchange on EU-LAC policies and RI priorities.

THE CONTEXT

The EU-LAC bi-regional cooperation in research and innovation has a long history and it is key in the **political agenda** of both regions.

CELAC: Community of Latin American and Caribbean States is a regional block of countries that intends to deep a Latin American integration.

Brazil decided to suspend its participation in January 2022.

* 2nd meeting was carried out in Madrid in 2002, 3rd in Guadalajara, 2004, 4th in Vienna, 2006 and the 5th was held in Lima in mid-May 2008

EU CELAC KNOWLEDGE AREA & JIRI SOM

- The VI EU LAC Summit, 2010 Madrid endorsed the development of the EU-LAC Knowledge Area as a **priority** for the two regions.
- An **Action Plan** was launched with an specific chapter devoted to Science, Innovation and technology together with the **Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI)**.
- The **instrument for implementing the JIRI** is the SOM: high-level Senior Officials from national bodies of the EU and LAC countries meet regularly in the Senior Official Meeting (SOM) with the objective to implement the EU-CELAC JIRI.

EU CELAC JIRI SOM

V JIRI SOM Brussels 2016: "... the Parties acknowledged the political and socio-economic importance to promote access to **Research Infrastructures** of global interest (...)"

VI JIRI SOM Brussels 2017: "[...] the establishment of a **EU CELAC WG on RI** aiming to ensure bi-regional policy coordination through sharing of good practices (...)"

- Information exchange on EU-LAC policies and priorities
- Identification of RIs with potential to strengthen bi-regional cooperation

Then, the main project achievements were presented

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS	
ACTIVITIES	OUTCOMES
Update the LAC – Ris ecosystem mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of eligibility criteria for LAC Ris (D2.1) • Updated list of LAC Ris eligible for binational collaboration (D2.2) • LAC Ris Landscape Analysis (D2.3)
Gathering and analysis information on strategies, policies and national roadmaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAC Benchmarking report & EU RI relevant show cases report (D3.1) • EU-LAC Cooperation models and practices report (D3.2)
Pilots activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 staff exchanges • 5 Workshops • CELAC Structural Biology Landscape report • Sustainability report of HPC in LAC • Identification of potential EU and LA partners for sustainability of the RICAP pilot • Set RI administrator academy HPC • Papers/publications • MoU signature

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS (II)	
ACTIVITIES	OUTCOMES
Collaboration with other initiatives and projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in events and initiatives: ICR2022, IRI SOM, ESRI, RedClara, CARLA2, NEUNA, INTERCONNECTA, IEEE CLUSTER 2022, EU LAC Foundation, LAC NCP Network, 4th Joint call EU CELAC Interest Group and other H2020/Horizon funded projects (RI-VIS, SINCERE, EU LAC PERMES, MOBIUM, etc) • Contact with RI RCPs network of LAC countries • ESRI RI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERIC FORUM survey on ERICs interested in the LAC collaboration. • ERICs: EuroBioimaging/BBMRI/EATRIS/JIVE/EUIBSBA/EUSOLARIS/EPOC/EBRAIN etc
Support the EU CELAC WG on RI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Cooperation workshops and 2 online seminars around the 5 thematic areas prioritized: Health, energy, biodiversity, climate change, food security and emerging technologies. • Sustainability Plan

2.4.2. RI in LAC Landscape analysis

Dileine Cunha, the representative of CNPq (Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico - Brazil), presented the results obtained in the "RI in LAC Landscape Analysis", which generated a map of research infrastructures in Latin America. This represents an important tool that is in the process of being updated and it groups different data from the research centres spread throughout Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), exposing the areas of greatest specialisation of each institution on that map.

She presented some recommendations to the Sustainability Plan

- Trying to set specific criteria for the entire LATAM region would potentially undermine the diversity and heterogeneous structures of the LAC RIs;
- Enable broader coverage of the region by deploying a simplified concept that allows for the presence of a minimum set of RIs per country;
- A broader sharing of RI platforms already in use (e.g., PNIPE in Brazil) as a basis for a LAC RI Observatory to be updated systemically to better articulate LAC RIs.

2.4.3. The EU LAC RESINFRA pilot's experience

The EU-LAC ResInfra pilots, represented by Rafael Mayo (RICAP), Claudia Alén (INSTRUCT), Maite Irazábal (LifeWatch) and Luca Pezzati, together with Karla Balzuwait (E-RIHS), then presented the EU-LAC ResInfra pilots. The conversation was guided by Kathrin Megerle- DLR (Germany). Each of the pilots presented their work during the development of the project, showing the results and initiatives that have guided their work. The different areas covered by the pilots have been fundamental in extending the range of research centres and infrastructures achieved. For example, the work carried out by INSTRUCT in areas such as advanced research in the field of biology. Also, RICAP has supported Latin American institutions in the improvement and strengthening of computing and server technologies. E-RIHS has supported heritage sciences, particularly in cooperation with different Brazilian institutions. Finally, Lifewatch, which has done

important work in nature conservation and promote research infrastructures on issues such as climate change.



2.4.4. Presentation of Opportunities and Challenges in bringing structural biology infrastructures to researchers in Latin America Report

The Landscape Analysis of Structural Biology Research Infrastructure in Latin America Report was presented by Claudia Alén. It reviews survey and direct interview responses from structural biologists across Latin America, and develops several conclusions and recommendations for both researchers and policy makers. This was published in 2022, and is available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Download: <https://instruct-eric.org/login?&target=https%3A%2F%2Finstruct-eric.org%2Fadm>

2.4.5. Sustainability plan: presentation of results of the interactive session in Montevideo (3rd EU LAC ResInfra General Assembly)

One of the remarkable moments of the day was the presentation on the Sustainability Plan of the project by Claudia Romano. It was based on the main results obtained from the general meeting of the project in Montevideo, Uruguay in July 2022, which focused on highlighting the need to generate a plan to strengthen and support collaboration in research infrastructures in Latin America in a permanent, sustained, and stable way that transcends a project and consolidates a network of sustainable research institutions with long-term projections.



They presented the objectives and the methodology of the interctive sessions. The participants (Resinfra partners and othe stakeholders) split into 4 groups and moved to the four corners of the meeting room to interactively discuss the topics of **Policy Dialogue**, **Visibility and communication**, **Financing** and **Practical Experiences**.

Then, Sabina Guaylupo, Maite Irazábal, Kathrin Megerle and Claudia Alén Amaro acted as rapporteurs and steered the group discussions before providing feedback to the plenary on the main results from the interactive session, which include:

- Lobbying activities for great outreach/impact (e.g., via EU-LAC Secretariat) in Horizon Europe
- Draw conclusion from reference examples (e.g., EU-LAC PerMed)
- Establish / promote co-funding opportunitites (e.g., CYTED)
- Extend (existing) Staff Exchanges

2.4.6. Discussion panel on the legacy and impact of EU LAC RESINFRA

This satellite event also featured guests from external research institutions and infrastructures who discussed the legacy and impact of the EU LAC ResInfra project for research centres in both Latin America and Europe, and international cooperation in the context of bi-regional cooperation. Those present included Fernando Amestoy (Director Instituto Polo Tecnológico - Pando and co-chair of the EU CELAC Working Group on Research Infrastructures), Liliana Ávila (MOSBRI Project), Nelson Venegas (University of Antioquia), Guillermo Rangel (University of Copenhagen), Claudia Córdoba (CONCYTEC Peru).



To conclude the event for the day, Sabina Guaylupo shared a few words that summarised everything that had taken place at the event and delivered a message to encourage the continuity of the initiatives and work that EU LAC ResInfra has developed and built for the development of research in multiple areas and interregional cooperation between Europe and Latin America.



3. Conclusion

After a questions & answers round and after the presentations and especially the discussion table the main conclusions were the following:

- To enhance the bi regional collaboration on Research Infrastructures a minimum commitment is needed. It could be under the MoU format (Memorandum of Understanding).

- Other important point is to create a community. RI are well-suited and equipped, however one needs to build a community to harness the synergical potential they yield. Relying on RedCLARA as a major actor in Latin America, attempts to convince funding agencies to launch more calls for EU-LAC research cooperation. Also create tutorials and training.
- More EU LAC Joint calls are needed. Not only funded under the Horizon Europe program but under other initiatives such as the 4th EU CELAC Joint call on STI successfully launched in 2022.
- A stronger liaison with ERICs via ERIC Forum was suggested as well.
- More systematic collaboration between the two regions is necessary
- Keep this thought: “Protejamos también la ciencia en español y portugués”