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1. PROJECT EXECUTION

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The WINDS Latin America project aimed at deepening strategic R&D cooperation between Europe and Latin America by building, starting from what already exists, a multinational and multistakeholder community that will involve a significant representation of the relevant R&D European and Latin American actors (researchers, policy makers, users) and by identifying common needs, research issues and opportunities for cooperative R&D between EU and Latin America, setting the basis for the formulation of a global strategy for future research.

The project objectives are:

- Build the observation, analysis and forecasting capacity required to identify key R&D issues on which to focus EU-LA cooperation, and key actors that shall be involved in EU-LA collaboration in the field;
- Guarantee that information on European R&D is promoted to a large number of research, policy and practice actors in LA, therefore facilitating dialogue among policy makers, companies, civil society and the research community;
- Organize three research conferences in LA, two research-policy seminars in Europe and a final Conference in Brussels to enhance the existing dialogue and cooperation with LA stakeholders, uplifting European R&D relevance;
- Establish a sustainable open consultation process that will lead to a consensus-based roadmap for future R&D in an LA-EU collaboration perspective;
- Coordinate with other support actions in Latin America and other third countries in order to contribute to the building of a global support network able to deepen strategic European cooperation at a global scale.



Fig. 1: The WINDS-LA logo

CONTRACTORS INVOLVED

The project consortium is composed by the MENON Network EEIG (Belgium), the Universidad Politecnica de Madrid and Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain), the University of Duisburg Essen (Germany), the Pontifical University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (Mexico) and the Fundación Gestión y Desarrollo (Argentina).

WORK PERFORMED

The WINDS-LA project worked along five lines of activities, in a complementary and interrelated way among them:

- Mapping of ITC research actors, projects and issues
- Web community building
- Clustering of EU-LA researchers
- Promotion and communication
- Research roadmapping and support to policy dialogue

In terms of **mapping** (WP2), the project has carried on an intense mapping activity, which has allowed to identify key LA ICT research actors and to reach a validated set of themes of EU-LA common benefit and interest. Thanks to an effort of the project partners and to the spontaneous submission of users, WINDS-LA produced a database of LA ICT research actors and projects, available at www.winds-la.eu that counts with 361 research institutions and 356 projects from all LA countries. This database is a key tool to promote ICT research capacities from LA towards European counterparts and has been one of the WINDS outputs which has been broadly disseminated in all public occasions, including the ICT-2008 Event in Lyon. In parallel, by integrating four specific reports produced by the project partners and focusing on Europe, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico and by integrating the input from existing agenda setting exercises, the project has produced the EU-LA ICT R&D Agenda Report, a document intended to guide the European Commission and the EU and LA governments in defining specific priorities for future collaboration in a EU-LA perspective. The issues mapping has been continuously enriched and validated throughout the project, through specific discussions organised in occasion of the two Policy Seminars in Sao Paulo and Brussels and through specific two-round Delphi consultations. As planned, this work has represented the basis for the development of the EU-LA Roadmap on ICT research collaboration (see WP6).

In terms of **web community building** (WP3), the project has developed and continuously updated the www.winds-la.eu website presenting information on EU ICT research results (both directly and by linking to the "ICT Results" service), on EU-LA collaboration schemes and promoting the possibilities offered by FP7 among LA actors and networks. The website has been continuously promoted by aggregating the databases of users of the three projects on which WINDS-LA builds upon (Eurolatis, EU-LAT, @LIS ISN), through direct actions (newsletters, press releases, presence at conferences, as detailed) and by networking activities, by linking and articulating with the major portals in the theme, at EU (such as IDEAL-IST) and at LA level (such as ABEST or UEMEXCyT).

After two years of work, the site reached a good visibility and a satisfactory number of registered users (1226). It must be mentioned that since June 2008 a Caribbean Section (managed by the WINDS-Caribe project) has been added to the website (transforming www.winds-la into www.winds-lac), this resulting in more countries included in the exercise, in the linguistic expansion with a French version of the website, and in more possible synergies among Latin American and Caribbean research actors, and that, in agreement with the EC and with the SOLAR ICT project, WINDS-LA produced an umbrella entry page for ICT research activities at EU-LA level, at the address <http://www.eulac-ict.info>.

The work of **clustering** (WP4) represented a strong – even if limited in time – moment of active collaboration among researchers from LA and EU. Following the definition of 10 key research themes of EU-LA common interest and benefit reached in WP2, the project partners have worked intensively to identify researchers from Europe and LA working in those fields, reaching a total of more than 800 research actors (including the ones from the project database). Out of the 10 clusters, six communities (on elearning, eHealth, eGovernment, software engineering, inclusion and connectivity, environment) counting with more than 800 participants, of which 155 active participants (meaning participants who actually wrote a message or posted a comment) were animated to collaborate through a step-by-step methodology, starting with a broad set of information services targeted to the whole community and moving into more specific collaboration and brokerage services (through 6 specific blogs and mailing lists). Finally, three online collaborative sessions took place for the actors interested and mature to discuss a project idea. What WINDS-LA was able to do was to give – for a limited time – a collaboration agenda to the clusters created, as well as a number of tools (blogs, mailing list, online sessions) to increase their chances to participate in FP7. Furthermore, this activity facilitated the emersion, through dialogue and collaboration, of 29 project ideas, that were followed up and accompanied with advice towards their possible transformation in FP7-ICT proposals.

The screenshot shows the WINDS-LA online clusters space. The page layout includes a top navigation bar with links for HOME PAGE, EVENTS, REPORTS, CONTACT, NEWSLETTERS, and SITE MAP. The main content area is titled "ICT research for health" and contains a welcome message, a description of the virtual working group, and a list of five research areas defined by participants. The sidebar on the left provides navigation for Caribbean and Latin America sections, while the right sidebar includes language selection (English, Spanish, French), a user menu, and a "Who's Online" section.

Fig. 2. The WINDS-LA online clusters space

In terms of **communication** (WP5), the project has been a dissemination mechanism able to spread in LA information on EU ICT research results and possibilities.

First of all, WINDS LA has organised three Research Collaboration Conferences:

- in October, the WINDS@Rio Conference was organised in the *Pontificia Universidade Catolica de Rio De Janeiro*, gathering more than 70 researchers, policy makers and representatives of ICT research users; during the event some excellence EU-Brazil projects were presented to key national policy makers and networks, such as the Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Research Foundation and the Brazilian Computer Society.



Fig 3: WINDS@Rio de Janeiro

- in November, the WINDS@Buenos Aires took place in the *Subsecretaría de Gestión Pública*, in collaboration with the National Secretariat for Science and Technology and with a number of key national partners, such as USUARIA, Transistemas, the national Software Association FONSOFT, the ABEST Office for S&T collaboration between the EU and Argentina. More than 180 participants attended the event, discussing how to successfully participate in FP7, how to improve cooperation in ICT research between the public and the private sector, and how to design a national Digital Agenda.



Fig 4: WINDS@Buenos Aires

- in December, the WINDS@Mexico Conference was organised in the campus *Estado de Mexico* from ITESM, gathering more than 100 top national researchers, who have presented and discussed successful EU-Mexico collaboration projects in the field of ICT. The event included a session aimed at building a stronger national community on ICT research, organised in collaboration with the “*Foro Consultivo sobre Ciencia y Tecnología*”.



Fig 5: WINDS@Mexico

All these events mobilized a lot of energy in Brazil, Argentina and Mexico, and represented important gathering moments. All the presentations and the lists of participants are available in the “Events” section of the www.winds-la.eu website.

WINDS-LA has issued and promoted, in cooperation with SOLAR-ICT, the e-newsletter (issued in October, January, May, July, October and December) and has developed a number of specific activities to promote LA ICT research in EU, such as the publication “ICT research in LA: cooperation opportunities for Europe”, which was produced in 2000 copies, the Report “Best Practices in EU-LA Cooperation in ICT research” and the project promotional video; all these outputs were broadly promoted, including in the ICT-Event in Lyon. In the last months of 2008, the project has concentrated its efforts to disseminate all its outcomes and at the same time to promote ICT research excellence from LA towards European research community through the organisation of two key activities, in cooperation with SOLAR-ICT: first, the organisation of the Latin American presence in the ICT 2008 Event in Lyon (with a Stand, a Networking session dedicated to EU-LA cooperation, the Project Concept Note Day) and second, the organisation of the project Final Dissemination Conference in Brussels, an event who gathered many important EU networks and actors from different backgrounds (media, policy, research) to be introduced to the ICT research excellence from Latin America. During the event, a professional video produced by ITESM with the collaboration of all partners and presenting the WINDS-LA activities and main outcomes was broadcasted.



Fig. 6. WINDS-LA Final Conference

Direct promotion of EU cooperation possibilities and results was also a key activity; in detail, 13 sessions and workshops have been organised. In details, sessions/workshops have been organised (6 in Europe, 2 in Brazil, 2 in Mexico, 2 in Argentina, 1 in Colombia) in the frame of the following events:

- Forum on Latin America-Europe cooperation in ICT issues for the Development, 14 April 2007
- Forum on IberoAmerican Digital Cities, Mendoza, Argentina, 13 June 2007
- RedCLARA General Assembly, 6 July 07, Bogota
- "ICT in FP7 – cooperation possibilities for Mexico", Mexico, 5t September 2007
- Workshop in ICT research for environment, FAO, ROME, 28 January 2008
- eCooperation Conference, 31 January 2008, Gijon, Spain
- E-STAS Symposium, 24 April 2008, Malaga, Spain
- EU-LA Cooperation on E-Government and Services to Citizens, La Plata 16 May 2008
- IX Encuentro Internacional Virtual Educa Zaragoza, 18 July 2008
- EATIS Conference, Aracaju, Brazil
- e-Challenge Conference, Stockholm, 22 October 2008
- MICAI international conference, 28th October 2008, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1o Seminário de Cooperação Internacional, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, 26 November 2008

Finally, presentations on FP7-ICT and on WINDS-LA were given in the following events:

- Meetings of LA embassies, Brussels, May 2007
- ACA Conference, Berlin, May 2007
- Belief-EELA e-Infrastructure Conference, Rio de Janeiro, June 2007
- EC Seminar on 2010 Cooperation, Porto Alegre, June 2007
- SADIO 37th Conference on Informatics, Buenos Aires, August 2007
- eLAC 2020 Meeting, Santiago de Chile, September 2007
- Seminar "Dia de America Latina", Vienna, October 2007
- Seminar ICT Cooperation Opportunities in FP7, Buenos Aires, June 2008
- ABEST Seminar, Buenos Aires, July 2008
- Online Educa Iberoamerican Forum, Berlin, December 2008

The **Roadmapping** work (WP6) started from the preparatory work of Year 1, when the project Advisory Board had been setup and activated, and developed through the organisation of two Policy Seminars, one in Sao Paulo in July 08 and one in Brussels in October 08, who reached a good level of participation (both in quantitative and qualitative terms) and an excellent level of open discussion. The results of these two events, complemented by an on-line Delphi Survey who gathered opinions from key decision makers at policy, research and civil society level, were then inputted in the WINDS-LA Roadmap for EU-LA Cooperation on ICT research, which was issued and disseminated to key decision makers in EU and in LA. In parallel, the project carried on a “positioning” work of its future potential activities and of its results, in cooperation with key actors such as the LAC-ACCESS project, the EULARINET project, the PRO-IDEAL project, the CEPAL, and the Liaison Offices for EU research in Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Mexico, in order to make sure that after the end of its lifecycle its results can be of use for the actors in charge of supporting EU-LA cooperation in ICT research. Together with the Roadmap, a proposal for the establishment of the EU-LA ICT research Multistakeholder Roundtable was developed and circulated to the main EU and LA decision makers in the field of IC research, as a possible tool to increase collaboration and articulation among existing initiatives.



Fig. 7. WINDS-LA Policy Seminar, Sao Paulo

The objectives for the two years of work (Jan. 2007 – Dec. 2008), as well as the work performed and the main achievements in the period are presented in the table below:

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MEASURABLE RESULTS
Build, in a collaborative perspective, the observation, analysis and forecasting capacity required to identify emerging issues and needs on which EU-LA collaboration should focus, and make them visible to relevant stakeholders	<p>Mapping of ICT R&D projects and actors in the EU (with special focus on the IST priority of FP7) and in Latin America.</p> <p>R&D Agenda Analysis to investigate on future R&D trends and priorities involving the research community, policy makers and relevant stakeholders in Europe and Latin America.</p>	<p>-Database of projects (356 entries, target 200 entries) and of actors and stakeholders (361 entries, target 300 entries)</p> <p>-R&D Agenda Report</p>
Guarantee that results of EU IST R&D are shared, disseminated and transferred to a large number of research, policy and practice actors dealing with technology applications in Latin America; and that Latin American IST R&D research results are made available to EU research, policy and practice actors	<p>Organisation of three R&D Conferences in key LA countries and of a Final Conference in Europe</p> <p>Project web site (it will include a news section, constantly updated on new developments and on the current debate on ICT R&D priorities).</p> <p>Mutual exchange and sharing-facilitation of results of EU and LA R&D to EU and LA audiences, to enhance dialogue and cooperation</p> <p>Project online newsletter</p>	<p>-Three regional conferences: WINDS Conference in Brazil (74 participants, target 100 participants) WINDS Conference in Argentina (184, target 100 participants) WINDS Conference in Mexico (108, target 100 participants)</p> <p>-Public info delivered through web site (news, info about ongoing projects and research results, events' proceedings)</p> <p>-Six Online newsletters produced as planned</p> <p>- WINDS Final Conference (target: 50 participants expected)</p> <p>- Proceedings of all events published on the web</p>
To build a collaborative learning and working EU-LA environment, facilitating EU-LA dialogue, networking, knowledge sharing and creation.	<p>Building of a virtual collaborative space for the EU-LA ICT R&D communities, for policy makers and for relevant stakeholders</p> <p>Community building involving projects, project clusters, researchers, policy makers and relevant stakeholders in the three identified geographical areas.</p>	<p>-Number of registered users in the project website (1226 registered users, target 1000 users)</p> <p>-Number of stakeholders involved per geographical area and qualitative and quantitative measurement of their participation (800 participants, of which 155 active, target 100 stakeholders involved)</p>

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MEASURABLE RESULTS
<p>Raise awareness of policy makers in the EU and in Latin America about technology oriented cooperation and results and facilitate dialogue among policy makers, companies, civil society and the research community</p>	<p>Organization of policy seminars for the dissemination of information and for the awareness building of policy makers and relevant stakeholders about EU and LA R&D orientation and perspectives in the field.</p> <p>Thematic clustering activity around themes of interest across EU and LA and thematic networking sessions</p> <p>Collection analysis and dissemination of collaboration best practices</p>	<p>-Two International Policy Seminars which gathered more than 40 high LA-EU level representative each. The first one was held at the Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil; the second one was held at the Mexican Mission to the European Communities in Brussels, Belgium (for policy makers and for stakeholders)</p> <p>- Thematic clusters (Target: 10 EU-LA Clusters)</p> <p>- Organization of 15 online EU-LA thematic collaboration sessions (12 through blogs and moderated mailing list and 3 through online synchronous sessions)</p>
<p>Establish, through an open consultation mechanism, a roadmap for future technology research in a EU-LA collaboration perspective and set-up a stable mechanism to facilitate EU-LA cooperation in the field</p>	<p>On the basis of the achieved results, a policy roadmapping exercise will be carried out to envision the future of EU-LA cooperation in the field of technology research and to identify sustainability strategies for the cooperation, dialogue and exchange process initiated by the project.</p>	<p>- Roadmap for future EU-LA collaboration on ICT R&D</p> <p>- White paper on increased EU-LA collaboration on ICT R&D</p> <p>- High-profile sustainable and multistakeholder Round-Table in charge of evaluating research results and developments, proposing key research themes and facilitate EU-LA cooperation.</p>

PROJECT RESULTS AND IMPACT

After two years of work, the WINDS-LA project has reached its planned objectives, completing all the activities planned in the Work Programmes.

In general terms, WINDS-LA ends its lifecycle being well-established and visible among researchers and research stakeholders in the EU and especially in the LA regions, where some impact on policy awareness can be already observed, and especially having made a contribution to rise up Latin American institutions participation in the ICT part of FP7 with respect to FP6, encouraging Latin American researchers to participate as partners in projects with European counterparts.

The project evaluation activities pointed out some important achievements of the project, such as the number of actors involved during the project lifecycle, the level of responsiveness by LA policy makers to the R&D Agenda analysis of the project, the position of “reference point” that WINDS-LA has reached in the field of EU-LA ICT research collaboration (acting as a “hub” with respect to other initiatives such as SOLAR-ICT or LAC-ACCESS, etc), the appreciation beyond the stakeholders’ target groups, and the direct involvement of other countries (such as Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Bolivia, Paraguay, etc.) than the ones directly involved in the consortium.

WINDS-LA was able to have a tangible impact on EU-LA cooperation in ICT research, with particular attention to ICT-FP7, along the following dimensions:

a) Impact on EU-LA research collaboration. Through the activities of web community building and clustering, WINDS-LA has fostered existing links and established new ones among EU and LA actors in different fields (see D4.1, D4.2). Furthermore, thanks to the work done online with the database and in presence with all the promotion activities organised in LA and in Europe (see D2.4 and all WP5 Deliverables), the project has contributed to the recognition and valorisation of excellence research groups in the EU and in Latin America helping therefore researchers, businesses and research organisations from EU and Latin America to have access to knowledge and expertise existing elsewhere.

b) Increase Latin American participation within ICT-FP7. All the project promotion, capacity-building, and support to collaboration activities have had an impact on the participation of research partners from Latin America in FP7, with specific reference to the ICT priority. In terms of actual participation of LA actors in FP7-ICT, the situation is promising. If we look at the participation trend from FP5 on, the following data confirm the trend of growth of LA participation:

- FP5 IST (1998-2002): 29 participations with 260.633 € EC contribution;
- FP6 IST (2002-2006): 76 participations (55 on IST, 21 on Research Infrastructure) with 6.493.248 € EC contribution;
- FP7 ICT (only in the three calls of 2007-2008): 69 participations (28 on ICT, 41 on Research Infrastructure) 3.147.769 € EC contribution.

If we look at the top 10 non-EU participating countries in ICT-FP7 in the first three calls of ICT-FP7, with respect to FP6, we notice that Brazil, Chile and Argentina score quite high:

Top 10 participants	FP6	FP7
UNITED STATES	53	27
BRAZIL	40	21
RUSSIA	58	19
CHINA	117	16
CHILE	9	14
INDIA	30	12

Top 10 participants	FP6	FP7
ARGENTINA	7	10
SOUTH AFRICA	7	10
CANADA	30	9
JAPAN	11	9

Table 1: Non-EU participation in FP6-IST vs FP7-ICT: number of participations¹

The state of participation is even more positive if we look at the amount of funding received by LA partners in the ICT-FP7 so far:

Top 10 participants	FP6 funding	FP7 funding
RUSSIA	4.897.181	2.297.479
UNITED STATES	5.773.754	1.284.342
CHINA	7.991.057	970.075
BRAZIL	4.672.767	928.616
SOUTH AFRICA	469.965	814.550
JAPAN	176.000	595.171
ARGENTINA	145.126	565.051
URUGUAY	84.000	542.786
CHILE	254.819	443.201
NEW ZEALAND	23.000	398.296

Table 2: Non-EU participation in FP6-IST vs FP7-ICT: funding²

This rather high level of participation involves not only the LA countries with a S&T agreement in place (BR, AR, CH and MX) but also other LA countries, showing that the whole region is taking the FP7 cooperation possibility very seriously and is improving its capacity to successfully participate in FP research projects.

c) Impact on EU-LA ICT research policy dialogue The project open consultation exercise (composed by the two policy seminars and by the two Delphi consultations) that has led to the WINDS-LA EU-LA ICT R&D Roadmap has contributed to build a joint EU-LA research perspective in two ways: first through the process itself, by increasing the awareness of the many actors directly involved and second through the outcomes of the process, which have been disseminated among relevant policy actors in Europe and in LA.

¹ Source: Presentation of Klaus Pendl, WINDS-LA Second Policy Seminar, Brussels 24 Oct 08

² Source: Presentation of Klaus Pendl, WINDS-LA Second Policy Seminar, Brussels 24 Oct 08

2. DISSEMINATION AND USE

Among the many WINDS-LA outputs, the following are hereby reported since they might have been of utility for future support actions and for general activities in support of EU-LA cooperation in ICT research:

- WINDS-LA database of LA ICT research actors and projects, available at www.winds-la.eu and counting with 361 research institutions and 356 projects from all LA countries, which is a key tool to promote ICT research capacities from LA towards European counterparts;
- ICT R&D Reports on Mexico, Argentina and Brazil, presenting the state of art of ICT research in these countries in terms of actors, capacities and priorities;
- EU-LA ICT R&D Agenda Report, a document intended to guide the European Commission and the EU and LA governments in defining specific priorities for future collaboration in a EU-LA perspective;
- www.winds-la.eu website presenting information on EU ICT research results (both directly and by linking to the “ICT Results” service), on EU-LA collaboration schemes and promoting the possibilities offered by FP7 among LA actors and networks;
- WINDS-LA Clusters Report, a document presenting more than 800 research actors from EU and LA clustered following 10 relevant themes for EU-LA cooperation in ICT research (learning, eHealth, eGovernment, software engineering, inclusion and connectivity, environment, energy, grid computing, security, mobile computing) ;
- Proceedings of all WINDS Events (Conferences in Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Policy Seminars in Brazil and Brussels, Final Conference in Brussels) containing the main discussion points, the conclusions and the participants list;
- Publication “ICT research in LA: cooperation opportunities for Europe”, presenting research capacities from 9 LA countries, available in PDF and on paper;
- Report “Best Practices in EU-LA Cooperation in ICT research”, presenting best cooperation projects and practices focusing on EU-LA cooperation in ICT research;
- Roadmap for EU-LA Cooperation on ICT research, presenting strategies and steps to improve cooperation between EU and LA in ICT research in a long term perspective.

All these results are public and accessible through the project website, www.winds-lac.eu.