D.2.2 – Concept and methodology for ICT Fora

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

1 INTRODUCTION

One of the main objectives of PRO-IDEAL PLUS project is to create and launch the **PRO-IDEAL PLUS ICT Forum** in order to facilitate the introduction of ICT R&D dimension into the regular policy dialogues between the EU and Latin America and Caribbean region, in such a way that ICT become a key issue within the broad range of topics addressed by the S&T policy dialogue events.

The ICT Fora will act as ICT meeting points of stakeholders from the target Latin America countries and will be devoted to discuss the opportunities and challenges for FP7-ICT R&D cooperation between Europe and Latin America, and the role of ICT R&D as an enabler for growth, competitiveness and innovation.

It is envisaged to hold at least one ICT Forum in each Latin America country with S&T Agreement with the EU, i.e. Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico, and to synchronise these ICT Fora with Information Society policy dialogue events, such as the Joint Committee meetings linked to the S&T Agreements or regular Information Society meetings, such as the dialogues between EU-Brazil. A tentative calendar has been set up although the exact dates will be fixed once such policy dialogue events are scheduled:

ICT Forum	Tentative date	Synchronised with
Chile	15-16 Nov 2010	Joint Committee Meeting Chile-EU
Argentina	March/April 2011	Joint Committee Meeting Argentina-EU
Mexico	2011	Joint Committee Meeting Mexico-EU
Brazil	2011	Joint Committee Meeting Brazil-EU

In addition to the countries with S&T agreements, it is envisaged to support the dialogue between the EU and Cuba. Cuba is already an interesting partner in the area of eHealth and software development. Through an "early" support it will be possible to establish a network of stakeholders and improve the linkage between Cuban and European researchers.

Cuba	7 February 2011	XIV Convención y Feria Internacional Informática 2011, 7-11 Feb 2011

The methodology and format of the ICT Forum will be flexible to be adapted to the specific events we are collaborating. It will be appropriately refined to meet the needs of the host country, the national institutions in charge of the implementation of the S&T Agreement, i.e. MINCYT (Argentina), CONICYT (Chile), CONACYT (Mexico) and the Ministry of Science and Technology, Division of S&T, (Brazil), and DG Research and DGINFSO interest in promoting the ICT policy dialogue in Latin America.

In the following sections we provide the overall approach and methodology for the ICT Fora.

2 ICT FORUM. CONCEPT AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Background Information

PRO-IDEAL PLUS. Enhancing the ICT policy dialogue

PRO-IDEAL PLUS aims at the promotion of the ICT policy dialogue in Latin America and the identification of ICT common research priorities between Europe and Latin America that are crucial for future R&D collaboration. PRO-IDEAL PLUS ICT Forum supports and facilitates the introduction of the ICT R&D dimension into the regular policy dialogue between EU-LAC.

FP7-ICT *R&D cooperation*

The launch of the 7th EU RTD Framework Programme (FP7) 2007-2013 and ICT as its most doted priority places new emphasis on international R&D cooperation which is increasingly seen as being at the centre of community policies. The opening of all FP7 areas to third-country participation underlines this approach. Science and technological development has always been an international endeavour, but the need for critical mass and large-scale infrastructure for advancing R&D in many areas increasingly call for strong international partnerships. ICT has also proved instrumental to enhancing and enriching many other policy areas and by now, is key to almost all product chain developments and business processes.

In recent years the European Union and Latin America Region have paved the way for reinforced ICT cooperation through intensive exchange of views involving researchers, industry including SMEs and public decision-makers, and establishing a frame of bilateral ICT cooperation agreements with third countries through the EU-LAC summits that take place bi-annually. Results from these summits will be considered when drafting priorities.

EU-LA S&T Agreements

As of today, four Latin America countries have signed S&T agreements with the EU: Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico. These Agreements create a predictable institutional foundation for a wide variety of knowledge centred cooperation, amongst others cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT).

For the scientific, technological and industrial communities of all these target countries, the FP7-ICT programme represents a tremendous opportunity to participate as equal in common international projects alongside renown centres of excellence and European companies. However, expectations have not always been met and the participation of research institutions and companies, particularly SMEs, from the Latin America countries in the ICT programme is still lagging behind their potential.

Facts & Figures of Latin America Countries with EC International Agreements on S&T

	Argentina	Brazil	Chile	Mexico
Signature by Both Parties	20/09/1999	19/01/2004	23/09/2002	03/02/2004
Council or Commission Decision on conclusion	2/12/1999	06/06/2005	22/07/2003	13/06/2005
Official journal (OJ) Reference	L006/32	L 295/38	L199/20	L290/17
Date of OJ publication	11/01/2000	11/11/2005	07/08/2003	04/11/2005
Entry into force	28/05/2001	07/08/2007	10/01/2007	13/06/2005
Last renewal date	28/05/2006			
Next renewal date	28/05/2011	07/08/2012	10/01/2012	13/06/2010
date Applicable date / Duration	Initial period of 5 years, subsequent periods of 5 years			

Source: EC, International RTD Cooperation. RTD association and Cooperation Agreements, 29/12/2009.

2.2 ICT Forum Objectives

The objective of the ICT Forum is to set up a platform for international cooperation between Latin America and Europe in the ICT field. The ICT Forum will be devoted to discuss:

- The relevance of S&T cooperation in the ICT field between Latin America and Europe.
- The opportunities to enhance Latin America participation in FP7-ICT R&D cooperation projects.
- The role of ICT R&D as an enabler for growth, competitiveness and innovation.
- Key ICT R&D priorities for international cooperation as identified by former projects (e.g. Solar-ICT, WINDS-LA, PRO-IDEAL), by policy documents (e,g, Declaration of La Granja, March 2010) or through feed-back from the PRO-IDEAL PLUS partners.

2.3 Organisation

As stated above, the organisation of the ICT Fora will is closely related to the time schedule, synchronised events and places where the Information Society policy dialogue meetings will take place.

Duration: the ICT Forum is scheduled as a 1 day event.

Countries: Chile, Cuba, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil

2.3.1 Logistics

The organisation of the ICT Forum will involve local partners from the host country (ADI-Chile, SOFTEL-Cuba, MINCYT-Argentina, ITESM-Mexico, USP-Brazil) and EU partners (INMARK and EMF). They will work in close collaboration with the national institutions in charge of the implementation of the S&T Agreement in Latin America, i.e. CONICYT (Chile), MINCYT (Argentina), CONACYT (Mexico) and the Ministry of Science and Technology, Division of S&T, (Brazil), and EC DG Research and DG INFSO as major European stakeholders in supporting the ICT policy dialogue.

The local organisers will select the appropriate venue and draft the Agenda together with the European partners and potentially with input of the S&T institutions. The agenda will include the major topics to be addressed during the ICT Forum, key speakers, ICT Forum supporters, invitations, press releases, and other materials for dissemination purposes.

Registration will be required. Participation is free of charge, but limited to room capacity.

2.3.2 Preparatory Work

A **Priorities' List** of topics to address during the ICT Forum will be drafted. From this list, the most relevant will be selected to serve as topic for one of the Discussion Groups.

In addition to the Priorities' List, a PRO-IDEAL PLUS **Position Paper** will summarize key objectives, topics and priorities identified by the project partners, with regard to ICT R&D cooperation between EU and LA and/or the EU and the specific country where the ICT Forum will be held. This Position Paper (which may be customised and updated for each Forum) will furthermore take into account findings from major policy papers (such as the La Granja Declaration, the EU Digital Agenda etc.).

2.4 Participants profile

The ICT Forum will bring together a significant number of stakeholders interested in fostering S&T cooperation in the ICT field, including (but not limited to):

- Policy makers from Latin America and, where feasible, Europe
- Regional and international ICT leaders
- ICT researchers from Academia and Industry
- NCPs
- Professional intermediary organisations
- Constituencies and partners of cluster projects

It is envisaged to target 50 persons per ICT Forum, thus targeting an overall audience of 250-300 people.

2.5 Draft Agenda

The Agenda and addressed topics will be defined together with the specific policy dialogue events related to the Information Society, LAC policies on Science and Technology and ICT. We can anticipate the following Agenda Layout:

ICT Forum

Enhancing ICT R&D Cooperation

Time	
09:00	Registration and welcome of participants
09:30	Opening session & welcome addresses (by local host and key speakers on ICT S&T, from EU and/or LAC)
10:15	PRO-IDEAL PLUS as a facilitator of R&D cooperation and ICT policy dialogue between EU and LAC; objectives; presentation of Position Paper (by PI+ team)
10:45	Coffee break
11:15	#1 Panel Discussion: ICT policy dialogue & International Cooperation in ICT R&D: Where are we heading for?
11:45	General discussion with audience
12:30	Lunch break
13:30	#2 Panel Discussion: [Define key ICT R&D topic to be addressed by Panel]
14:00	General Discussion with audience
14:30	#3 Panel Discussion: [Define key ICT R&D topic to be addressed by Panel]
15:00	General discussion with audience
15:30	Closing session & Conclusions

Panel Discussions will be chaired by a person who acts as moderator. A rapporteur will take notes that will feed into the conclusions. All results from the ICT Fora will be fed into the Virtual Policy Dialogue Space on the PRO-IDEAL platform (www.pro-ideal.eu) for continuous discussion and knowledge exchange.