

First

*Implementing cooperation on Future Internet
and ICT Components between Europe and Latin America*

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Abstract This document builds upon a set of interviews done to key ICT-related organizations the setting out of a Regional Strategy EU-LatAm for increasing the Future Internet R&D projects between both continents. The purpose of the interviews was to discover the links between these organizations and the set out of the R&D Future Internet EU-LatAm cooperation Regional Strategy. The interviewed organizations play the role of Observers of this process and will participate in the regional discussions and agreement of the Regional Strategy.



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Today's devices will disappear. Electronics will instead be embedded in our environment, woven into our clothing, and written directly to our retinas from eyeglasses and contact lenses; devices will no longer be spokes on the Internet—they will be the nodes themselves.¹

Executive Summary

The presented document, deliverable 4.1 (D4.1), has the main purpose of showing a brief analysis of key LatAm organizations that are able to support and promote, in one way or another, the establishment of a R&D Future Internet EU-LatAm cooperation. The origin of the current deliverable is based on the fact that one of the objectives of the FIRST Project is to set up a Regional Strategy in LatAm for cooperating with Europe.

In this context, an EU-LatAm Advisory Group will be created. It will be constituted by representatives of local Technology Platforms (EU and LA) and by a group of observers of the key Latin American ICT-related organizations that will contribute in the discussions and agreement of the Regional Strategy.

It is of main importance to clarify the meaning of key Latin American ICT-related organizations. They are regional organizations that promote and support different aspects of what the FIRST project is implementing in Latin America: a tight approach between Academia, Industry and Government; R&D promotion, international cooperation, regional integration, social inclusion, among other things.

FIRST's expected impact of this objective is to "set up the Regional Strategy for cooperation EU-LatAm. This Regional EU-LatAm strategy will take into account national strategies as developed in national Latin American Technology Platforms (LATPs), as well as European strategies and priorities as developed in European Technology Platforms (ETPs), Future Internet Assembly (FIA), Future Internet Research & Experimentation (FIRE), and other relevant European groups in the field of Future Internet.

The major outcome of this activity will be three common EU-LatAm documents (Vision document, Strategic Reserach Agenda (SRA) and Roadmap) that will be the basis for future cooperation between European and Latin American researchers. The main added value of WP4

¹ Ray Kurzweil in interview for the article "The Future of Internet", published in April 2006 by Red Herring
<<http://www.redherring.com/Home/16391>>

is based on the consistent aggregation of national views from national LATPs to create the Regional strategy, plus its harmonization with European experts and ETPs visions.

Additionally, WP4 will also pave the way for future launch of additional LATPs in other LatAm countries.²

These regional organizations will fulfill the critical role of supporting the Regional Strategy. In this document, thanks to the interviews done to the Observers, the different links between these organizations and the Regional strategy in LatAm for cooperation with Europe will be identified. As mentioned above, each organization seek different aspects of the goal pursued by this regional strategy.

D4.1 provides:

- F-* A description of key LatAm ICT related Organizations identified
- F-* Interviews done to these organizations

² Working Package 4: 248753 – FIRST, Annex I, version 6, Approved by the EC on 28/10/2009

1. Introduction

The area of the Future of Internet is considered a central topic, both for industry, research centres and Academia at worldwide level. It is therefore essential to put in place an adequate strategy that will assure that Latin America is actively participating on a global level, exploiting those areas where Latin American companies have critical mass to assure a good position that will bring not only economical returns, but also new products and applications that will generate wealth, sustainable economic growth, regional cohesion and stability and continued improvements in living conditions.³ To achieve these objectives, it is essential to take advantage of the large size of Latin America as a whole in order to create scale economies.

The new technologies of communication and information are shaping new ways of doing things, new production models, new ways to go towards the world, in other words, we are interacting with the world in a different way. Thus, models that until recently were successful are today in crisis.

Mrs. Saadia Sánchez Vega, Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) Information & Knowledge Network Director, has exposed this transformation in a very clear way:

The world is moving towards a new interpretative framework with ICT as cultural mediator. ICT and the convergence processes between content/services and telecommunications (computing and mobility) beyond its technical instrumentality are "cultural mediators" that enable the emergence of new social practices, new productive and organizational practices and new subjectivities.

Such emergent practices are expressed in new communication logics, new ways of accessing information and knowledge building, Research and Innovation.

New logics of:

- *Professional work: teleworking / telecommuting*
 - *Production and trade in globalized production chains: e-Commerce and e-Banking,*
 - *Medical services provision and preventive health care: e-Health and Telemedicine*
 - *Education and learning: Tele-education / e-learning*
 - *Organizing, creating and sharing information as a support to the R&D&i: E-Research*
- *Governance and its efficiency and its effectiveness: e-Government*

³ Based on Spanish Technology Platform Es.Internet Vision Document <<http://www.idi.aetic.es/esInternet/>>

• *Public and Social Participation and management: e-Citizenship⁴*

In view of these facts, the European Commission has provided funding to encourage R&D activities and to adjust them to the new reality. In this context, the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), European Union's chief instrument for funding Research over the period 2007 to 2013, has funded the FIRST project, which is a Support Action that intends to foster International Cooperation in the areas of Future Internet and ICT Components and systems, from now on called Future Internet, between Europe and Latin America.

The project's aim is to extend the constituency of European Technology Platforms (ETPs) to Latin American strategic stakeholders from the different sectors included in the Future Internet field. The promotion and support to the creation of Technology Platforms in Latin America at a national level is taking place in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico. Each local Technology Platform will produce both organizational documents (governance, structure, etc.) and key (technical) documents: Vision, Strategic Research Agenda and Roadmap.

This local implementation will have its regional chapter that will pursue a Regional Strategy EU-LatAm of Future Internet, which is the rationale of one of the tasks (WP4) of the FIRST project. This Regional EU-LatAm strategy will take into account national strategies as developed in national LATPs, as well as European strategies and priorities of European groups in the field of Future Internet. But those documents will not be the result of a compilation, they would have to be the outcome of discussions and agreement of the EU-LatAm Group of Experts. These discussions would have the support and valuable experience of key LatAm ICT-related organizations.

This deliverable intends to analyse key LatAm organizations (including LatAm programmes) mainly from the fields of ICT and R&D promotion. The analysis is based on interviews made to get information on their positions and priorities with respect to Future Internet and other aspects related to the Technology Platforms. This document will also be used as input for the production of the common EU-LatAm Vision, SRA and roadmap documents that are the Regional EU-LatAm strategy of Future Internet key documents.

⁴ XXXVI Reunión Ordinaria del Consejo Latinoamericano, Caracas, Venezuela, 27 al 29 de octubre de 2010, SP/RM/CL/XXXVI.O/Di N° 12-10, Copyright © SELA, octubre de 2010. Published in <http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2010/11/T02360004502-0-Economia_y_Sociedad_del_Conocimiento_en_ALC_-_XXXVI_RO_del_CLA,_Caracas,_octubre,_2010.pdf>

2. Setting up the Regional Strategy for cooperation EU-LatAm; the role of the Advisory Group

The main objective of this task (WP4) is to **set up the Regional Strategy for cooperation EU-LatAm**. This Regional EU-LatAm strategy will take into account national strategies as developed in national LATPs, as well as European strategies and priorities as developed in ETPs, FIA, FIRE, and other relevant European groups in the field of Future Internet. It will also:

- F-** **Contribute to European discussions** on Future Internet, providing the Latin American Vision, identifying main Research themes, and highlighting opportunities for cooperation.
- F-** **Contribute to Latin American discussions** on Future Internet, providing inputs to key Latin American organizations.
- F-** Pave the way for the **future creation and establishment of LATPs** in additional Latin American countries.

The Advisory Group will be a key element in this task. As stated in the Introduction, the Regional Strategy will be the result of the discussions and agreement around the European and LATPs documents. It is the challenge of the Advisory Group to carry out this vital mission.

The Advisory Group is constituted by full members and observers.

- F-** Full members are the representatives from National Latin American Technology Platforms (at least one representative per national LATP) plus European key stakeholders from European Technology Platforms (at least 4 representatives),
- F-** Observers: key LatAm Organizations, European Commission, Latin American National R&D Agencies, representatives of public authorities, etc.

3. Key LatAm Organizations

As an outcome of work carried out in this initial phase, the following organizations were interviewed:

- F-* ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean)
- F-* SELA (Latin American and Caribbean Economic System)
- F-* OAS (Organization of American States)
- F-* ILCE (Instituto Latinoamericano de Comercio Electrónico – Latin American Institute for e-commerce)
- F-* RedCLARA (Cooperación Latino Americana de Redes Avanzadas - Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks)
- F-* AHCIET (Asociación Iberoamericana de Centros de Investigación y Empresas de Telecomunicaciones)

Firstly, a brief description of each organization will be made, with the addition of ALETI's description (Federación de Asociaciones de Latinoamérica, El Caribe y España de Entidades de Tecnologías de la Información – Federation of Association of Information Technologies entities from Latin America, the Caribbean countries and Spain).



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean -ECLAC -

www.eclac.org

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) -the Spanish acronym is CEPAL- was established by Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI) of 25 February 1948 and began to function that same year. ECLAC, which is headquartered in Santiago, Chile, is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations focused on Economic Development in the five continents. It was founded with the purpose of contributing to the economic development of Latin America, coordinating actions directed towards this end, and

reinforcing economic ties among countries and with other nations of the world. The promotion of the region's social development was later included among its primary objectives.

Among ECLAC mandates related to the establishment of the Regional Strategy, it can be pointed out that ECLAC:

- F-* Shall formulate and promote development cooperation activities and projects of regional and subregional scope commensurate with the needs and priorities of the region and act as an executive agency for such projects;
- F-* Shall promote economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration;
- F-* Shall assist in bringing a regional perspective to global problems and forums and introduces global concerns at the regional and subregional levels;

ECLAC, together with the European Commission, supports projects in the framework of @LIS 2 Programme⁵. The European Union support, through the second phase of the Alliance for the Information Society programme - @LIS2, the continuation of dialogue and cooperation on policy and regulatory frameworks in the Information Society area, boost interconnectivity and collaborative Research in Latin America and with the EU and promote the Latin American ongoing regulatory integration effort.



Latin American and Caribbean Economic System -SELA -

www.sela.org

The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) is a regional intergovernmental organization that groups 28 Latin American and Caribbean countries. Its mission is:

- F-* To provide the Latin American and Caribbean region with a system of consultation and coordination for the adoption of common positions and strategies on economic issues in international bodies and forums and before third countries and groups of countries and
- F-* To foster cooperation and integration among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

SELA main activities are based on three axis: Extra-regional relations, Intra-regional relations, Economic and Technical Cooperation

⁵ <http://redclara.net/index.php/en/project/lis2-programme>

Regarding extra-regional relations, SELA seals business and cooperation proposals for Latin America and the Caribbean and assess processes linked to international business, commercial, economic and financial negotiations and the implications of such processes for regional development and integration, among other things.

Regarding intra-regional relations, SELA supports the development, coordination and convergence of the sub-regional processes of Latin America Latin and the Caribbean; **promote strategies to identify operational efforts that will help further the coordination and convergence of economic integration throughout the region**; and consider and develop proposals aimed at creating an institutional framework of integration that will encourage coordination and convergence in sub-regional processes.

Lastly, SELA's Economic and Technical Cooperation promotes the flow of multilateral and bilateral cooperation from international agencies and donor countries towards the region and serves as a regional focal point for economic and technical cooperation between developing countries. SELA also encourages the exchange of experiences and information on national policies, particularly those of greatest relevance to macroeconomic coordination, the struggle against poverty, social inclusion and international cooperation.



Organization of American States

Organization of American States -OAS-

www.oas.org/

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the world's oldest regional organization, dating back to the First International Conference of American States, which was held in Washington, D.C. from October 1889 to April 1890.

The OAS was established to achieve among its member states, as stated in Article 1 of its Charter, "an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence." Today it comprises the 35 independent states of the Americas and has granted permanent observer status to 63 states, as well as to the European Union. The Organization of American States constitutes the principal political, juridical, and social governmental forum in the Hemisphere.

The OAS has a department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) that facilitates the inter-American dialogue on policy as well as programs and projects that work both towards poverty reduction, the promotion of integration and the strengthening of democratic governance.

The DSTI focuses on four priority areas: policies on Science and Technology; Innovation and competitiveness; applied sciences; and scientific collaboration networks. It is important to emphasize that the DSTI also maintains collaborative relations with the industry, the academic scientific community, professional associations as well as specialized inter-American networks of Science and Technology.

The OAS uses a four-pronged approach to effectively implement its essential purposes, based on its pillars: democracy, human rights, security, and development.



Instituto Latinoamericano de Comercio Electrónico -ILCE-

www.einstituto.org/

ILCE is a regional non-profit organization that groups the main institutions promoting and supporting the Digital Economy in Latin America. Its main objective is promoting joint initiatives that consolidate the world of Internet Businesses.

One of the objectives of ILCE is to constitute an open network of regional organizations and institutions that promote the initiatives of each of its members and the whole spectrum.



RedCLARA

www.redclara.net

CLARA -Cooperación Latino Americana de Redes Avanzadas (Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks)- is a non-profit International Law Organization, that serves as a Latin American collaboration system by means of telecommunications advanced networks for Research, Innovation and Education.

CLARA develops and operates RedCLARA, the advanced Internet network that was established in Latin America –for regional interconnection- and linked to GÉANT2 (pan European advanced network) via the ALICE Project, which –until March 2008- was co-funded by the European Commission through its @LIS Programme.

CLARA is constituted by 17 Latin American countries and its Assembly –where each country has representative- meets every six months to define courses of action and the policies to be implemented.



Asociación Iberoamericana de Centros de Investigación y Empresas de Telecomunicaciones–AHCIET-

www.ahciet.net

AHCIET is the Ibero-American Association of Research Centers and Telecommunication Enterprises. Founded in 1982, AHCIET is a non-profit organization. More than 50 Latin American and Spanish telecommunications companies have joined us with the sole purpose of contributing to telecommunications development as a basis of very nation's growth.

AHCIET mission is to be the meeting point for telecommunication operators in Latin America, and to offer its members products and services focused on developing knowledge management, training and social applications and business opportunities. AHCIET also promotes cooperation agreements with international organizations, manufacturers and service providers with the objective of generating complete information in regulatory, technological and commercial issues as well as vectors directed towards the development of the global information society.



Federación de Asociaciones de Latinoamérica, El Caribe y España de Entidades de Tecnologías de la Información –ALETI-

www.leti.org

ALETI is the only international Federal Association that involves national industry ICT associations of Latin America, The Caribbean countries and Spain. Its members include industry enterprises, vendors and SMEs as well as Technology Parks and local regional Clusters of companies.

The ALETI scope is to integrate to the associations and business organizations of the ICT of Latin America, The Caribbean and Spain, and promote the commercialization, the commercial and technological exchange between the associates and the countries of the Region. The five

target countries of the FIRST project have ALETI associate members: CESSI in Argentina, Asespro in Brasil, FEDESOFT in Colombia, GECHS and ACTI in Chile and AMITI in Mexico. All these associations are participating in the national platforms.

ALETI also promotes the cooperation and the convergence in the IT industry in the Latin American region and enables activities for R&D and Innovation (R&D&i) within their members mainly in ICT related areas and future trends. As such, it is in a good position to ensure dissemination and communication towards the Latin American countries not directly involved in the project and to contribute to accelerate their synchronization with European ICT Research policy.

ALETI fulfils a double role in the setting up of the Regional Strategy EU-LatAm. On one hand, it is the leader of this setting up, consequently it is coordinating the parties. However, its position makes ALETI an ICT key stakeholder; therefore, it should be included in this group of Observers, fulfilling a double function of coordinator and observer.

The **role of ALETI** in the group of experts:

ALETI will play a double role in the group of experts being on one hand the **secretariat** of the group meaning that ALETI will manage the logistics of the group, set up conference calls, edit draft documents, solve doubts of the experts and other operational activities that will support the group. On the other hand, ALETI will also be included as **observer** in the group as a key LatAm organization that gathers the ICT industry associations in Ibero-America. In order to increase the transparency and openness of the group procedures ALETI will nominate two different persons for each one of these roles:

- F-* The **secretariat** role will be managed by **Ms. Luz Ledesma** who belongs to the ALETI headquarters.
- F-* The **observer** role will be a **rotating position** assumed by one delegate of ALETI and decided in ALETI's Board of Directors (BoD) meeting. In the last BoD held in Uruguay on March 2011, the Brazilian delegate was chosen to fulfil the observer role.

In this way, the project wants to stress the difference of the two roles and clarify that the observer role will be in hands of one of the ALETI associations, while the secretariat will be run by the headquarters of ALETI.

In the following pages, a set of interviews done to the mentioned organizations is described.

4. Interviews

The following set of interviews was made by phone, with exception of OAS that was a face-to-face interview. The goal of these conversations was to understand why key regional organization would be interested in promoting/supporting a Regional Strategy EU-LatAm for Future Internet.

ECLAC (CEPAL)

Interview with Nestor Bercovich, @Lis2 ECLAC Coordinator.

1- From CEPAL point of view, why do you think that the set up of the Technologies Platforms in LA is important?

CEPAL, through Project @LIS2, supported by the European Union, has as one of its main goals the promotion of international cooperation between Europe and Latin America towards the Information Society. This project has three main initiatives⁶ that boost the access and productive use of ICT technologies.

In addition, CEPAL acknowledges that developing technologies and innovative capacities is very important for the process of the regional development. That is why it is so important to increase the efforts in improving regional capacities, Science and any R&D activity.

In order to achieve this, the Technology Platform model is one of the ways to reach this goal. Technology Platforms are spaces in which the industry can express which are the priorities in R&D that need to be taken into account by the different initiatives of the European Framework Programme. These platforms are the bound between the companies and the policy makers of the public sector. This is relevant for the region because it helps to get through the historical distance between the public, academic and the private spheres. For example, in Latin America the participation of the private sector spending over the total R&D spending is much lower than other regions of the world. One way to boost this is to identify the private sector's priorities in order to include them in the national efforts.

In addition, is important to create the platforms in order to have a space of participation and discussion in which private, academic and public sector can jointly define the priorities for the

⁶ The three initiatives -led by CLARA, ECLAC and REGULATEL respectively- aim to improve productivity, efficiency, education and the capacity for innovation, by taking advantage of the potential of information and communications technologies:

Project "Inclusive political dialogue and exchange of experiences", co-financed by the EU (€9 million) and by ECLAC (€3 million).

Project "ALICE2" -Latin America Interconnected with Europe 2-, co-financed with €12 million from the EU and €6 million from the countries of the region, is implemented by CLARA.

Project "Regulatory dialogues" is being implemented by REGULATEL, with €1 million from the EU and €252,800 from regulators of the countries of the region.

Source: <http://redclara.net/index.php/en/visibility/news-archive/5-nueva-noticia>

country. It might be interesting if private innovative companies start participating in FP7 initiatives, and not only academic research centers.

2- CEPAL has as mission to contribute to the economic development of Latin America and the Caribbean. How do you think the 7FP of the European Commission contribute to this mission?

Economic development can be built through strengthening local innovative capacities. One way to achieve this is using international networks that are sources of different experiences and development possibilities. Furthermore, these networks join the different Latin American actors while the Framework Programme initiatives start including the Latin American priorities in the different cooperation projects. Then, as the region organizes itself using the Technology Platforms model, or other tools, this can influence on the European decisions in their plans of cooperation with Latin America. The FP7 has different areas in which cooperation with Latin America is included, which means that the region can be relevant on the process of defining priorities in Europe.

Finally, the Framework Programme contributes to the regional development through the strengthening of local Innovation. In particular the inclusion of Latin American partners in the different projects is a good way of sharing experience and know-how in topics that are not that visible in the region. It is also important to ensure that the Latin American organizations do not only participate providing its know-how in topics that are not that relevant in the region, but to participate in projects that have inference in Latin American local issues.

3- Any message for the members?

CEPAL is really interested in supporting the Technology Platforms and is available to promote this kind of model.

SELA

Interview with Saadia Sánchez, Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) Information & Knowledge Network Director.

1- From SELA point of view, why do you think that the set up of the Technologies Platforms in LA is important?

First of all, let me explain briefly what SELA is. SELA stands for Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) and is a regional intergovernmental organization that groups 28 Latin American and Caribbean countries. One of our main purposes is to foster cooperation and integration among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In this sense, everything

related to the promotion and support of ICT for Development (ICT4D) is part of our own course of action, is part of our mandate. Secondly, it is important to take into account the pertinence of what is expected to improve with the Technology Platforms. On one hand, we are accomplishing our main mandate. On the other hand, we are also supporting an action that we consider worthy and necessary for the integration processes in the region.

2- Internet is already an essential part of our society, each day more present in our daily life, it has changed our life but it has the potential to transform it even more. We are foreseen a new Internet where Immersive, 3D applications will be protagonist. In this new scenario, what is SELA position and why it would support Latin American-European Union strategy of Research and Development activities?

We start with the fundamental idea that globalized societies are moving towards a new technologic-cognitive paradigm and there is no way back from this. Following Carlota Perez's line of thinking regarding the techno-economic paradigm of flexible networks, we share and work on the development of this theoretical premise. Starting from that, there is a main technologic axis that has strongly influenced in many of the nowadays social transformations.

We think that this transformation impacts the Society as a whole. They change citizens' everyday life, the productive processes, and the social and economic development. Every social, economic and even cultural activity is strongly influenced by this paradigm of flexible networks.

As I already mentioned the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System supports technical cooperation and the regional integration process. We postulate the important task of the regional integration processes is to promote digital integration as an essential component of the regional integration in Latin American and the Caribbean. To work on the digital integration of the region is also an important step forward to reduce the technological asymmetries among Latin American countries. Technological asymmetries as well as social, political and structural asymmetries hamper the integration processes in the region, therefore to work on digital integration means to work on the reduction of asymmetries in the region. This is all part of our regional strategic vision.

3- Any message for the LATPs members?

Initiatives such as FIRST must be supported because they require the synergies of the different international and regional organisms. Furthermore, it is also needed the support of the public and private sectors in the different countries. Inter-institutional synergies are needed to boost the processes of digital integration as a key process of the regional integration.

This is really essential because the way for a profitable and sustainable insertion in the global economy is the regional integration. That is why we give that importance to the inter institutional synergies and the work required to achieve that. Because digital integration intends to go through

the digital divide between the different countries of the region. Strong differences in the regions are threats the solid integration of the region.

We have to be the first to be able to use this power. It is important to highlight the high impact results of this approach in the short term. It will transform the ideas and make them impact on the society and the economy.

OAS

Interview with Jorge Durán, Office of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dept. of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

1- For the OAS ICT is a key driver for equality, development, social inclusion.

Why?

The OAS has mandates and one of its missions is to promote democracy, social inclusion and democratic governance. In order to achieve this you need to be able to communicate ideas, policies and support to the population. And of course we know that Information and Communication Technologies are the way to do that. And this is why it is very important for OAS as well as for many other organizations: to Promote access to the digital era information; Not only that but in addition to that, ICT provides access to information of all such of sources, like political issues, Education, Science, Technology, Innovation, new ideas and, most important perhaps, political participation by the people.

2- OAS has promoted the creation of LACCIR⁷, so about ICT R&D? What is the position of OAS?

It is fully supported, as a matter of fact, the OAS houses, the **Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)** , which of course is involved not in the Implementation of the actual technologies, but in the regulation and the norms and standards that should be adopted, according to those set by the International Telecommunications Union, based in Europe.

The executive secretary of CITEL, Clovis Batista is on the board of directors of LACCIR.

3- The goal of FIRST is creating a LATP, so we can establish a net inside LA, but also to link LA with EU.

⁷ LACCIR is the acronym for Latin American and Caribbean Collaborative ICT Research Federation, which was created in 2007 with the primary goal of encouraging academic collaborative research in ICT as an enabler of economic and social development.

Source: <http://www.laccir.org/laccir/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>

One of the things that we are doing and we are continuing to support is in the high performance of Communication Networks; there is a network that is called Red CLARA, and of course we are again following that. Just recently, last month in September we had the meeting of the Inter-American Commission on Science and Technology, and Clara was one of our speaker's guests. The position is that, while a lot of work has been done to connect the capitals of the countries in Latin American and the Caribbean, there are much to be done to connect the rural areas on high speed.

4- One thing is cooperating inside Latin American, but another one is having cooperation with Europe, what would the experience, the benefits of cooperating in projects of R&D ICT ?

I know that the US and Canada are involved and both in these industrial economies have cooperated with the OAS continuously on this. For instance, I myself handle a budget from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and the Department of Economic Trade and Development, where the office of Science and Technology and Innovation is located, manages several Communication Internet networks funded by CIDA to promote Development, Education and support competitiveness.

Now, there is more at this point since the technology as a means to an end, rather than focusing on the technology itself as we did 20 years ago, when it was very necessary to do. Now technology is pretty much established, we have WEB 2.0 out there, everybody is using it. So the OAS has pulled back a little bit from supporting the actual development of technology and focusing more on using that technology to promote development.

5- The practical issue of this project is gathering Industry and Academic Sector . What is OAS position?

OAS position is to continuously promote Sabato's Triangle, which is the strategically union between Government, Academia and Industry. As a matter of fact, we are about to launch a program called Engineering Education for Competitiveness, which aims to improve, modernize and update the curricular programs of the Engineering degrees in Latin America and the Caribbean : Civil, Industrial, Mechanical, Chemical, Electrical..

In addition to the actual study programs, part of the project includes promoting closer, better and more efficient links between Universities and Academia on the one hand, and Businesses and Industries on the other to create jobs. These alliances will also encourage industry to help in guiding Research and the Programs so the graduates from these degrees have the necessary skills and competencies that the Industry needs. Building capacities on entrepreneurship skills among the students is also an important element to bring Academia and Industry closer. So we fully support that.

6- Any message for LATP?

I think that you guys are doing a great job and just keep working at it, we are there to help you were we can.

ILCE

Interview with Marcos Pueyrredon, ILCE´s president.

1- From ILCE point of view, why do you think that the set up of the Technology Platforms in LA is important?

Generally, the reason is that we must take advantage of the improvement achieved in other countries outside LatAm. There is lot of knowledge and work made that is still partially unknown. Furthermore, there is not a good connection between the opportunities that Latin America can offer to Europe and the other way around.

Maybe it is possible to work on a synergic way through the building of associations. However, companies do not have the information and do not know how to develop associations between different entities neither of the same country or different parts of the region.

2- Could you explain ILCE's position with respect to R&D?

This question might be answered in two different levels: personal and institutional.

Personally, I consider that companies do not spend as much as required in order to improve the quality of R&D activities.

From the institutional point of view, there is some progress regarding this problem, but not that serious. There are kind of initiatives but much more collaborative work is needed: there is a lot of individual efforts but cooperative efforts are still needed. From ILCE, we are convinced that it is possible to add together the different sources that the companies present and generate a larger supply of R&D resources. In Latin America there is no culture of R&D because there are not institutions promoting it.

Companies that have incorporated the R&D culture have demonstrated that it is an investment and a strategic tool inside their activity.

3- Internet is already an essential part of our society, each day more present in our daily life, it has changed our life but it has the potential to transform it even more. We are foreseeing a new Internet where Immersive, 3D applications will be protagonist. In this new scenario, what is ILCE position and why it would support Latin American-European Union strategy of Research and Development activities?

ILCE has a fundamental stone for the development of the Internet and the digital economy. It consists in:

Boost and improve the quality (and quantity) the supply of companies that offer their products and services using the Internet. The progression of successful cases of this will increase the joy of the experience from the user side.

Nowadays, our focus is this because we believe that the biggest need is the lack of supply at regional level. The main reason for this is that this new channel/tool described is not incorporated with the necessary time and resources to do it.

In this moment, our place to work is the supply because it has a spillover effect. Focusing on the supply is working with all the key actors of the economy that use Internet for their work and business. The main objective is encouraging them to do this more frequently and better and create a spillover effect through the rest of the economy.

4- Any message for the members?

We believe that this kind of initiative are very important because they allow to create a know-how about what the region is doing in order to boost all the initiatives individually and as a whole at regional level.

One of the biggest benefits that Internet brought is the networking and community framework creation that it represents. We are using this flag of Internet that includes many topics. But the important fact is that we are a community that shares interests and this allows us to work together by finding interaction points in which we can go deeper after each interaction between the members of the community.

The important fact today is to walk together and find this flag that allow all of us to keep on working together with the same objective. If we add all the individual efforts and share them as a group then the collective intelligence will emerge. That is the networking power of Internet.

RedCLARA

Interview with Carmen Gloria Labb  , RedCLARA Innovation and Development Director.

1. Why does CLARA have an area of Innovation?

There are two important reasons: CLARA is an innovative institution per se. Being an infrastructure for Science and Education, forces us to be always watching our processes and how to improve them, so as to provide the best conditions for the scientific community to make a better Science. On the other hand, CLARA is committed to Innovation as a way to support scientific and technological development of countries in the region. In that sense we are looking

for ways to encourage different productive sectors to be an active part of the process of searching for a Science that seeks answers to the major problems faced by the Society.

2. From Clara point of view, why do you think that the set up of the Technologies Platforms in LA is important?

Technology Platforms give something that the region structurally needs for: bounds between Academia, Private and Public sectors of Innovation to improve Science competitiveness.

From the ICT perspective the platforms are really interesting because CLARA network is a testing platform, which not only connect universities networks, but also develops new applications. Each application has to go through from researchers to the companies. Then, it is crucial to articulate the different actors in order to make a more strategic Science development related to the regional needs.

Following this, it is necessary to go over the inside Science of the researchers because the R&D results are blocked to turn into Innovation. We consider that Innovation sector has to be closer to companies. Also, Research Centres and Universities are the axis that must be joint to the government and policy makers. This is the way in which it will be possible to work in public policies coordinated with the productive sector needs and make R&D initiatives more profitable in Latin America.

3. Internet is already an essential part of our society, each day more present in our daily life, It has changed our life but it has the potential to transform it even more. We are foreseen a new Internet where Immersive, 3D applications will be protagonist. In this new scenario, what is the RedCLARA position and why it would support Latin American-European Union strategy of Research and Development activities?

Naturally, the genesis of the CLARA network was originated thanks to Internet and to an European idea; it is created with the objective of analyzing the possibilities of direct interconnection between the European Research Network (GEANT) and its similar networks in each country of Latin America.

In the second phase of the project, also supported by the European Commission, the main objective is to strengthen the infrastructure and the relation between the R&D&i communities of both Europe and Latin America.

4. Any message for the members?

In Latin America we are living a moment of many synergies. There is a political will of seeking a regional perspective towards Science, Technology and Innovation. It is a crucial moment to start different initiatives.

The invitation is to take this opportunity to work together, sharing knowledge and efforts in order to achieve a high level of scientific and technological development in the region. We make available the service of RedCLARA infrastructure as well as a range of services that support the scientific activity of the region.

AHCIET

Interview with Fernando Gonzalez, AHCIET General Manager.

1. From AHCIET point of view, why do you think that the set up of the Technology Platforms in LatAm is important?

Latin America is not an isolate region in the world, therefore Technology Platforms are an essential tool to join the main actors involved in the Information Systems development, at two levels, primarily at national level and secondarily at regional level, in order to achieve an harmonized development in all the countries.

Taking into account these items, and in order to achieve the regional coordination and harmonization, in addition to the National Technology Platforms, could be interesting to have a “regional conference or commission” to integrate the efforts and relationship with the European Commission at a regional level, a kind of Regional Technology Platform.

2. Internet is already an essential part of our society, each day more present in our daily life. It has changed our life but it has the potential to transform it even more. We are foreseen a new Internet where Immersive, 3D applications will be protagonist. In this new scenario, what is AHCIET position and why it would support Latin American-European Union strategy of Research and Development activities?

We believe that these kinds of initiatives will bring strong benefits for the global regional development, so AHCIET will support this cooperative strategy of Research and Development activities for this foreseen new scenario.

3. Any message for the members?

AHCIET will work hardly to this end and in this sense we offer our complete disposition to cooperate with the National Technology Platforms, the European Union and other institutions involved.

5. Conclusions

As reflected in the interviews, important organizations at Latin American regional level gave their support to the production of a Regional Strategy for cooperation EU-LatAm in the Future Internet field.

All of them have shown interest and enthusiasm in the proposed Regional Strategy for Cooperation EU-LatAm in the Future Internet field, especially on account of the importance that these organizations give to the matter of R&D&i for economic and social development in the region.

One of the main reasons for this support is the lack of R&D&i structures or Technology Platforms at a regional level for enabling the benefits and achievements that ETPs provide in Europe, so the interviewed entities have an expectation on the achievements that can happen at R&D level. The region has capacity for creativity and Innovation but, compared with Asia, Europe and the United States, it has very few patents and copyrights registered in the ICT field⁸. For the region to be more competitive, it is necessary to increase R&D so that its results may become market products. A very important aspect is the regionalization due to working together to be more synergistic is vital to progress, as stated by Mrs. Saadia Sanchez from SELA.

The lack of a common economic entity like European Union shows the long way round that Latin America has to walk. Hence, regional institutions drawn in this document are valid at the regional level partners. There are several separate initiatives but not one that gather all the voices: the Andean Pact, MERCOSUR, UNASUR, NAFTA, etc, as well as bilateral agreements. This lack of regionalization shows, even more, the need for regionalization and for projects such as FIRST.

From different perspectives, these key LatAm organizations support a Regional Strategy for cooperation EU-LatAm in the Future Internet field, proposed by the FIRST Project.

ECLAC and SELA have an economic axis. SELA promotes regional common positions and strategy by **fostering strategies to identify operational efforts that will help further the coordination and convergence of economic integration throughout the region**. ECLAC also promotes the economic development of the region and one of its objectives is the formulation, the development and the promotion of cooperation activities and projects of regional and subregional scope commensurate with the needs and priorities of the region. ECLAC acts as an executing agency for such projects.

⁸ "During the decade 1996-2005, in the United States were awarded over 131.000 software patents, which represents 37% of ICT patents (hardware software) and 8% of all patents". Peres, Wilson and Hilbert, Martin (Editors): La Sociedad de la Información en América Latina y el Caribe, Desarrollo de las tecnologías y tecnologías para el desarrollo, page 161, ELAC Books, United Nations Publication, Santiago de Chile, February 2009.

OAS has a political role where, of course, the Economic aspect is vital. One of OAS objectives is the promotion of the democracy, therefore fighting against asymmetries is basic; this makes that the fight against poverty is also a fundamental mandate.

And as all these aspects are closely related, OAS also has a Science, Technology and Innovation Department since because they understand that ICT are vital, but not exclusive, for fulfilling the above mentioned mandates. In a world with a *new interpretive framework with ICT as cultural mediator*, it will be merely essential to work in technology-based innovative projects.

Regarding ILCE, it constitutes a network open to regional organizations and institutions that promote the initiatives of each of its members and the whole spectrum. ILCE's objective is integrating all the e-commerce institutions since is the only way of achieving a regional competitiveness. In Latin America, regional high level activities or initiatives are rather a novelty, but "it is possible to add together the different sources that the companies present and generate a larger supply of R&D resources". The need for looking for new ways of e-businesses is based on the fact that e-commerce not only involves selling products and services via Internet, but also involves a comprehensive business strategy that seeks to maximize customer value and profitability by optimizing internal and external processes based on the use of ICT. ICT is a condition for this new business model.

Certainly, the support expressed by RedCLARA is crucial since it provides a communication infrastructure to connect Universities and Research Centres from Latin America and the Caribbean. Therefore, its support does not only involve following up the production process of the Regional Strategy, but also the meetings done through CLARA's tools.

AHCIET is the only "meeting point" for cooperation between telecommunication players to share experiences and exploit synergies. As Technology Platforms implemented in Latin America cover the Telecommunications field, AHCIET role is key since it is complementary to ALETI's domain. The main difference between them is that AHCIET also gathers the Academic Sector, while ALETI gathers only the Industry. In the meeting *I Encuentro Iberoamericano sobre Objetivos del Milenio de Naciones Unidas y las TICs (Technologies for Information and Communication)*, AHCIET have adhered to Declaración de Lisboa⁹, document that declares the importance of encouraging public-private cooperation between different actors of innovation and knowledge levels of government, companies, sectors and agencies, creating collaborative mechanisms specified in business technology innovation in order to increase the competitiveness of the sector Latin American production and in particular small and medium enterprises. The connection with the FIRST project objectives is clear since they both follow the increase of competitiveness, in a long term level. The Strategic Research Agenda is a first step to start concrete actions in order to reduce the gaps between Europe and Latin America.

Finally, ALETI is the voice of ICT Industry, therefore its vision will be of main importance to maintain one of the mandates of the Technology Platforms, that it is an industry driven struture.

⁹ Lisbon Declaration, on November 4, 2009.

Source: <http://www1.ahciet.net/Paginas/Posicionescomunes.aspx>

As coordinator and Observer, ALETI is in charge of harmonizing the focus of all the parties and, on the other hand, of assuring the industry point of view, which is not easy in Latin America since Industry is not the driver of R&D activities.

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More information visit the project website: www.latin-american-technology-platforms.eu