PROJECT PERIODIC REPORT
Publishable summary
Period 1

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1. Publishable summary

The AMERICAS project aims at supporting sustainable ICT policy dialogues and fostering ICT R&D cooperation between the EU and strategic partner countries in Latin America, by enabling new synergies and effective collaboration through policy makers, researchers and key stakeholders networks in ICT and international cooperation.

AMERICAS is a Support Action funded by FP7-ICT programme, the project started in November 2011 and will finish in October 2013. The AMERICAS project covers all countries with a bi-lateral S&T Agreement in the region (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico) plus Colombia.

Main objectives of AMERICAS are:

- To support a sustainable ICT policy dialogue between Europe and Latin America strategic partners countries through synchronised events with S&T and ICT-related meetings both in Latin America and Europe.

- To enhance and increase LA target countries participation in ICT R&D cooperation projects, by adopting innovative participatory methodologies that involve and engage the best researchers to participate in ICT priorities of all Challenges and Objectives of the EU ICT Work Programme.

- To provide recommendations for future cooperation initiatives by exploring the scope and viability of joint strategies between EU-Latin America sub-region in ICT R&D.

- To contribute to the long-term sustainability of ICT R&D cooperation between EU-LA by strengthening and extending the Project Angels network, i.e. experts ("Angels") specifically trained in the understanding of the ICT programme and EU funding mechanisms able to help potential project participants with advice on how to proceed.

- To foster collaboration and resource sharing between ICT and e-Infrastructures by spreading the potential of e-Infrastructures research facilities for ICT R&D cooperation and organising joint dissemination events.

To reach the project objectives, the AMERICAS workplan builds upon the following well-targeted support activities and capacity-building events:

- Organising **an annual ICT Forum** synchronised with S&T and ICT dialogue meetings to support sustainable policy dialogues and to foster collaborative research on ICT.

- Organising interactive **Master Classes** to stimulate, encourage and facilitate proactive participation of world-class researchers from Latin America in ICT projects.

- Organising **Summer Schools** for existing and future Project Angels to deepen their knowledge about EU ICT projects, supported by on-line knowledge exchange and information tools.

- Performing a **feasibility study to provide recommendations** on potential joint strategies and ICT priorities for future bi-regional cooperation initiatives in the ICT arena.

- Fostering **pro-active collaboration between AMERICAS and e-Infrastructure projects** to enhance R&D collaboration and share e-Infrastructures for research in common ICT domains.

Major **achievements** during the first year of the project have been:

1. **Annual ICT Forum 2012** held in Santiago, Chile, on 16 March, in order to support ICT policy dialogues between Europe and Latin America. The ICT Forum 2012 was synchronised with the EU-LAC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) that took place on 21-22 March 2012 in Concepción, Chile, as part of the activities previous to the VII EU-LAC Summit to be held in January 2013 in Chile. The ICT Forum was a co-creative and interactive workshop to support the SOM' ICT Working Group and it was devoted to encourage the implementation of pilot initiatives in four ICT areas: e-Inclusion, e-Health, Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and Living Labs.

2. *Interactive Master Classes* in Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Santiago, Mexico DF and Bogotá. The Master Classes took place between June-October 2012 and brought together over 150 world-class researchers and stakeholders from the academia and the industry, with knowledge and experience in EU/International cooperation projects, and with project ideas to be submitted to upcoming ICT calls for proposals. The Master Classes used state of the art participatory methodologies, such as Knowledge Cafe and Rapid Prototyping techniques combined with the elevator pitch concept, to stimulate interaction among participants, foster collaboration and co-creative interdisciplinary proposal design in priority areas of the ICT Work Programme 2013, with interest for Latin American countries.

3. **Project Angels Summer School** in Buenos Aires, on 5-6 July 2012, in parallel to the ICT Info Day of the Argentina Liaison Office with the European Union (ABEST). The Summer School reinforced the Project Angels network with more "Angels" getting specialised knowledge in the area of the EU ICT programme, thus being able to give advice to potential partners on how to participate in ICT projects.

4. **Scope and methodology for a feasibility study** on joint strategies for future cooperation initiatives between Europe and Latin America countries, and undertaking the identification and analysis of critical factors and research agendas for EU-LA ICT R&D cooperation.

5. **Task Forces for ICT-e-Infrastructures collaboration** in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Colombia, involving AMERICAS and e-Infrastructures projects partners, representatives of LA Science and Technology Councils, National Research and Education Networks, industry and academia. Task Forces are collaborating in building the map of e-Infrastructures in Latin America.

6. **Networking and awareness raising** of the AMERICAS project and opportunities for ICT R&D cooperation between the EU and Latin America, through the AMERICAS platform, social networks, project events and cooperation with international cooperation initiatives in Latin America and Europe.

The AMERICAS Consortium brings together a team of leading professionals, Latin America Science & Technology government and academic institutions; European cross-stakeholders' IT networks, experienced market researchers and high-qualified ICT managers with high expertise in cooperation with Latin America:

- INMARK Estudios y Estrategias, INMARK, Spain
- European Multimedia Forum, EMF, UK
- Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva, MINCYT, Argentina
- Ministerio da Ciencia, Tecnologia e Inovaçao, IBICT/MCT, Brazil
- Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica, CONICYT, Chile
- Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, ITESM, Mexico
- Instituto Colombiano para el desarrollo de la Ciencia y la Tecnología, COLCIENCIAS, Colombia