

## 1 Publishable final activity report

### 1.1 Project execution

Elan2Life was a specific support action initiated by a consortium of four European and five Latin American organizations (from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Peru) within the FP6 Thematic Programme Health. The overall objective of the project was to stimulate and enhance international cooperation in the field of Life Sciences & Health between Europe and LA&C countries. This should be achieved by creating in this region a network of information nodes able to carry out coherent and sustainable system of actions aimed at raising public awareness of cooperative opportunities, by supporting and facilitating the inclusion of LA research teams into European consortia, and also by promoting best European practices of research and project management in the Latin American partner countries.

Contractors involved:

	Partner N°	Country	Institution	Acronym
Europe	1	Germany	European Research and Project Office	EUR
	2	Spain	University of Alicante	UA
	3	Germany	Saarland University	US
	4	Belgium	Research & Innovation Management Services bvba	RIMS
Latin America	5	Brazil	Fundacao Oswaldo Cruz	FIOCRUZ
	6	Mexico	Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada	CICESE
	7	Chile	University of Talca	Utalca
	8	Argentina	Argentine National Council of Scientific and Technological Research	CONICET
	9	Peru	Richmond Fellowship del Peru	RFP

The first project year focused on the setup of the network of FP7 information nodes. The Latin American partners were supported by the European partners through a targeted training programme, including visits to National Contact Points in Germany, France and Spain as well as to the European Commission and other relevant institutions in Europe. All infonodes were fully operational by October 2007. Furthermore, dissemination strategies had been developed, and through flyers, newsletters, websites and direct mailings to the scientific community in their country, the infonodes reached out to a large audience.

The second project year, starting together with the new Framework Programme 7, focused on the pilot operation of the existing information nodes. Numerous information events were held to inform Latin American scientists about EU funding opportunities for cooperation with European partners, with a special focus on the LifeScience sector. The infonodes were also able to provide individualized support, ranging from general advise over the phone or through videoconferences to personal support in writing FP7 proposals. The infonodes had established links to the German and Spanisch National Contact Points for LifeSciences, who provided them

regularly with information relevant for LA audiences. European Elan2Life partners continued to support the LA partners by holding workshops or seminars in Latin America, promoting the network among European scientists interested in EU-LA collaboration, and supporting the nodes in their day-to-day work where necessary. They also brought Latin Americans to Europe, training infonode staff in Germany and Spain, or bringing LA scientists to a large conference in Europe and connecting them with European colleagues.

During the project lifetime, three of the five LA partner countries have created official National Contact Points for Health (Argentina, Chile, and Mexico), and another one is in the process of doing so (Brazil). While the Peruvian infonode had to cease its activities, mainly due to political instabilities, and the future of the Chilean node after the end of Elan2Life is uncertain, the other nodes show strong sustainability of tools and knowledge generated: The Argentine NCP has been created within the Elan2Life partner institution CONICET, and Elan2Life personnel has been transferred to the Department of International Relations at the national Ministry of Science and Technology. The new Mexican NCP will use the database created by Elan2Life Mexico and make it publicly accessible through their website. The Brazilian Elan2Life partner institution FIOCRUZ will continue the work started under the project and is in the process of developing several regional Health NCPs, in order to be able to provide NCP services to scientists in all areas of the vast country.

Latin American participation in EU projects has been clearly increasing over the project lifetime: in the second HEALTH call, more than 80 proposals have been submitted with participation of Argentina or Brazil alone, and the number of HEALTH projects with LA participation has already surpassed the number of projects in all FP6.

Cooperation between several LA project partners and the European coordinator will continue, with further activities promoting and supporting international cooperation in the field of Life Sciences & Health between Europe and LA countries, and the group will stay represented on the web through the joint website [www.elan2life.net](http://www.elan2life.net).

## 1.2 Dissemination and use

Through dissemination events, workshops and information days, Elan2Life has directly reached more than 1000 Latin American scientists, and has been continuously informing about the same number of scientists through newsletters and mailings.

While project activities have not in all countries lead to sustainable structures which will remain functional after the end of the project, they have clearly reached a very large audience, raising the awareness for EU funding opportunities for Latin American researchers and contributing to the increased participation of Elan2Life partner countries under FP7. In the second half of the project, activities have also been extended to Colombia, which approached the project asking for support, showing a clear dedication and ambitious plans to also become a key player in EU-LA collaboration.

Four of the Elan2Life partners will furthermore stay connected through a new strategic FP7 project (EUCCO-Net, [www.euco-net.eu](http://www.euco-net.eu)), aiming at the integration of LA ideas and impulses into future Community research in the area of infectious diseases.