

NECOBELAC summary



FP7 –Science in Society (Project no.230583, CSA)

Period: 2019-2012

NECOBELAC project (NETwork of COLlaboration BETween Europe & Latin American-Caribbean countries, www.necobelac.eu) was focused on public health and was part of the global commitment to abate barriers limiting the free circulation and proper use of scientific information. The Project aimed to spread know-how in scientific writing and Open Access publishing models in European and Latin American academic and research institutions. The main objective was to create a network of institutions to enhance the production and dissemination of quality scientific information in the field of public health, through a specific training strategy addressed to different stakeholders.

The project partners were represented by institutions seated both in Europe and Latin America conveying different skills and experiences in information dissemination practices: Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS, Italy, project coordinator), Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC, Spain), the University of Nottingham (UNOTT, United Kingdom), BIREME/PAHO/WHO, Brasil), the Instituto de Salud Pública de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia (ISP, Colombia), the Universidade do Minho (UMINHO, Portugal).

To reach its objectives, the project developed and implemented three parallel actions: a two-level training strategy in scientific writing and open access publishing, the creation of flexible training tools and a networking and cooperation activity.

The two-level training program (based on train-the-trainers courses and local training replication activity) permitted to maximize the project impact and create major involvement of local institutions in European and Latin American countries. This strategy also allows a long term sustainability of the project activity aiming at an equal distribution of global information resources in public health. Within the Project term, 8 train-the-trainers courses were delivered: 4 in Europe (Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland) and 4 in Latin America (Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Mexico) and 40 training replication activities were organized at local level involving more than 1000 attendants.

The project developed original training tools, the NECOBELAC topic maps, based on semantic web technologies. They include different training modules on issues related to scientific publication and Open Access which can be utilized in a flexible way to build up personalized training programs. NECOBELAC topic maps are available online in the four project languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian).

NECOBELAC network of supporting institutions was mainly developed through training activities; it currently (July 2012) includes 212 institutions from 16 countries: 5 in Europe and 11 in Latin America.

Online and printed materials in four languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian) were also created to support training and guarantee wider understanding, easy dissemination and appropriate use of the project contents at local level. Moreover, 63 dissemination activities were performed to strengthen the project impact.

The focus on public health and the involvement of different stakeholders at international, national, and local level (researchers, librarians, editors, policy makers, administrators etc.), according to a methodology based on cooperation and training, favored a wide and long run impact of the Project in the interested geographical areas and sustainability of its training methodology.