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## Final Activity Report

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## Project Execution

### 1. Contractors

No	Participant Name	Participant short name	Country
1	European Research and Project Office GmbH	EURICE	Germany
2	University of Alicante	UA	Spain
3	Universidade do Estado de Santa Catarina	UDESC	Brazil
4	Universidade Federal de Pelotas	UFPEL	Brazil

### 2. Publishable Executive Summary

The 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the European Community in the field of research and technological development adopted in June and launched in November 2002 widens the horizons of international cooperation and brings new cooperative opportunities to European scientists as well as to the research community world-wide. In addition to the traditional instruments of international cooperation scientists and researchers from the third countries have obtained an opportunity to join research consortia in the main thematic areas of European research. Based on these opportunities, the main objective of the PROMINENCE project is to strengthen and widen research collaborations between the European, Brazilian and Cuban research communities in light of the new cooperative opportunities offered by FP6 and INCO.

Since the very beginning of the 90s the RTD cooperation between the EU and Latin America has demonstrated growing mutual interest and strong potential. Hundreds of joint projects supported by INCO in the Latin American countries have brought fruitful and valuable results for the research communities in those countries and in Europe. Brazil is the biggest Latin American country with a long and successful history of RTD cooperation with the EU (FP4 INCO and FP5 INCO-2 together have launched about 100 projects with Brazilian participation) and, moreover, Brazil has concluded an S&T Cooperation Agreement with the EU.

Cuba plays a special role amongst the “developing countries” due to its significant research capacities and particular political situation. Recent political “hard line” of the Cuban

Government towards any cooperation with the European Commission and other European institutes creates several formal obstacles on the way to a wider cooperation. For instance, all Cuban research organizations are not allowed to enter into contractual relations with the EC which bans them from participation as contractors in European research projects. At the same time direct talks to Cuban researcher clearly indicated strong interest from the side of researchers and middle level research managers to cooperation with Europe.

Before and despite the abovementioned difficulties, European research programmes have been actively implemented in Cuba and 27 projects have been launched with Cuban participation. The consortium partners strongly believe that the current political difficulties in the relations between the EU and Cuba are temporary and will be overcome in the future.

To achieve this objective a coherent set of activities was carried out. At the beginning of the project a study was conducted to map the research landscape in Brazil and Cuba. It focused in particular on the perception Latin-American scientists have about taking part in European projects as well identifying the barriers that hinder their participation. In addition it compared the thematic research areas set up by INCO with the areas of research excellence in Brazil and Cuba. The results of the study were compiled in an English brief summary that has been published on the project website ([www.prominence-online.net](http://www.prominence-online.net)).

Once the study was finalised, activities to raise awareness in the research communities of the Latin American partner countries on the existing cooperation opportunities with Europe were implemented through various thematic seminars. In total three workshops were carried out in Brazil, in the states of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul and one workshop was held in Cuba. These events were attended by administrators and scientists alike.

Finally, the workshop "Training of Trainers" was designed to support the preconditions mentioned above and assist those scientists and researchers in Brazil and Cuba who are committed to becoming involved in cooperative activities with their European colleagues, but lack sufficient knowledge and skills in partner search, consortium building, dealing with project formalities, etc. The specific objective of this project activity was to train a limited number of representatives from Latin American partner institutions to serve as local facilitators by consulting and spreading their acquired knowledge in Brazil and Cuba.

The project consortium believes that the project achieved its objectives and delivered a visible impact on the international RTD cooperation between the EU, Brazil and Cuba. It is especially important in the transition phase between FP6 and FP7 because of the new and wider opportunities for cooperation that will be available in the forthcoming Framework Programme.

### **3. Project objectives and major achievements**

The overall objective of the project was *to strengthen and widen research collaborations between the European, Brazilian and Cuban research communities in the light of new*

*cooperative opportunities offered by FP6 and INCO, in particular, and thus contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of European Research Area.*

In order to achieve this ambitious objective the following specific objectives have been pursued:

1. to study and analyse various experiences achieved by the previous INCO projects carried out in Brazil and Cuba and on the basis of this analysis identify the most promising areas and instruments of cooperation, to identify the barriers and enablers on the way towards new research collaborations, the synergies between the research priorities set up by INCO and by national and regional funding schemes;
2. to promote and disseminate best practice and success stories of cooperation to a wider audience in the partner countries with the aim to engage new players and stimulate interest to cooperation with European partners;
3. to promote and raise awareness among European researchers of the opportunities for research cooperation with Brazil and Cuba, the most promising areas of cooperation and potential partners;
4. to set up a supporting and facilitating infrastructure in Brazil and Cuba which will assist local scientists and researchers in their efforts to get involved in joint FP6 and INCO research projects and will sustain after the end of the project.

These objectives have been achieved in the course of the implementation of the project workplan. The major achievements delivered by the project are:

- The study carried out in the framework of the project has highlighted the major benefits and obstacles Latin American partners usually experience while participating in European projects. Being published in Spanish and widely disseminated in Brazil and Cuba, this deliverable will bridge an information gap between potential partners in Latin America and cooperative opportunities;
- Thematic seminars in Brazil and Cuba raised public awareness of existing and forthcoming opportunities among local scientists and research managers, helped local partners to match their competencies with European thematic priorities and equipped them with partnering skills.
- A group of local facilitators has been trained in Europe to enable them to serve as “EU liaison officers” in their institutions. The consortium believes that this activity will have a durable positive effect beyond the project framework.

#### **4. Workpackage Progress**

##### **1.1.1 Workpackage 1. Study**

<b>WP number:</b>	1	<b>Start date or start event:</b>	PM 1
<b>Activity Type:</b>	SSA		

<b>Participant id:</b>	<b>Eurice</b>	<b>UA</b>	<b>UDESC</b>	<b>UFPEL</b>
<b>PM / planned</b>	0,5	4	2	1
<b>PM / actual</b>	0,7	4,2	2,25	1.25

## **Objectives**

The main objective of this workpackage was to lay a foundation for further project activities by analysing the experiences obtained by a number of previous INCO projects in Brazil and Cuba, peculiarities of the research landscapes in the partner countries and cooperative opportunities available on the different levels (international, national, regional).

## **Progress**

In a first step a questionnaire was elaborated by UA and the appointed expert group (representatives from the Latin American institutions) to map the scientific landscape in Cuba and the southern regions of Brazil (Río Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina), focussing on the three main areas – public health, food safety and natural resources – eligible for INCO funding. The main focus of the survey was placed on:

- General evaluation (positive / negative) of EU-funded research projects;
- Possible obstacles, barriers and/or problems that were faced when carrying out the projects;
- Specific data about the consortium (number of partners, countries involved, type of organization, information about the coordinator, etc.);
- Specific data about the project (research area, funding programme, etc.) and the project's results (sustainability, exploitations, dissemination, etc.);
- Indirect project results such as the establishment of new contacts, networking, follow-up projects;
- Evaluation of what areas - research or mobility - funding should be focussed on;
- Identification of information sources regarding funding programs;
- Evaluation and comparison of other funding schemes (OMC, OMS, UNESCO, other NGOs);

The finalised questionnaire was sent to the project partners in Cuba and Brazil, and from there distributed to various scientists, who had been identified as participants/coordinators of previous EU cooperation projects. Contacting these persons proved somewhat difficult, as some were no longer employed in the respective institutions or were away, or the listed contact person for the project was not the actual person responsible for the project's

execution, or the contact data was incorrect<sup>1</sup>. Also the initial communication with the researchers could not be carried out via email, as first intended, since often times there was no (immediate) response to the questionnaire. Instead the surveys were carried out by telephone or face-to-face interviews. The survey also helped to identify the Centres of Excellence, by capturing the “Lines of Research Excellence” in the three research areas listed above. This allowed a comparison between the focus areas of research in the surveyed countries and the priority areas funded by the EU.

## **Results**

The activities of this workpackage lead to deliverable D.1 – “EU-Brazil and EU-Cuba research cooperation: opportunities and potential”. It is made up of the actual study + annexes (in Spanish), Executive Summary (in English) and a Project Leaflet. The results have been published on the project website and the leaflet has been distributed at various events (see D7).

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<sup>1</sup> *The contact data was first taken from the CORDIS database. Additional information sources (national databases, personal contacts, online search engines), however, were also necessary, since the information listed in CORDIS often times was insufficient, incorrect or outdated.*



### 1.1.2 Workpackage 2. Thematic seminars in Brazil and Cuba

<b>WP number:</b>	2	<b>Start date or start event:</b>			PM 1
<b>Activity Type:</b>	SSA				
<b>Participant id:</b>	<b>Eurice</b>	<b>UA</b>	<b>UDESC</b>	<b>UFPEL</b>	
<b>PM / planned</b>	0,5	1	1	1	
<b>PM / actual</b>	1,5	0,5	1,05	1	

#### **Objectives**

This workpackage was setup to promote and disseminate the best practices and success stories of Brazilian and Cuban participation in the European research consortia to a wider public, to support scientific networking, to raise awareness of cooperative opportunities and, by this, to stimulate the interest of the target group in future co-operations.

#### **Progress**

The project organized three seminars with the title “EU-Brazil (Cuba) research cooperation: INCO experiences and future opportunities”, one in Cuba (Havana) and two in Southern Brazil (Florianopolis and Porto Alegre). Here the local project partners were responsible for all organizational matters and in Cuba the colleagues from the Ministry of Higher Education, Department of International Relations, facilitated the workshop’s organization. The target groups of both seminars were composed of researchers and research administrators, whereby the selection procedure was carried out by the local experts according to the principles defined in the Technical Annex:

- relevance to the thematic priorities of FP6 INCO programme and thematic representation;
- potential ability to join an international research consortium (in terms of scientific expertise and credibility);
- geographic representation;

The results of WP1 played a central role in the organization of the seminars (in terms of the content, the target group selection, timing, etc.). The seminars in Brazil were synchronized to reduce volume of travel activities for the European experts and their travel costs.

#### **Results**

The results of the seminars are highlighted in the respective deliverables D.2 and D.3, each of them includes a full set of the seminar documents (agenda, list of participants, summaries of presentations, etc.), analysis of the potential impact and recommendations for the future actions.

### 1.1.3 Workpackage 3. Dissemination activity in Europe

<b>WP number:</b>	3	<b>Start date or start event:</b>			PM 1
<b>Activity Type:</b>	SSA				
<b>Participant id:</b>	<b>Eurice</b>	<b>UA</b>	<b>UDESC</b>	<b>UFPEL</b>	
<b>PM / planned</b>	0	0	0	0	
<b>PM / actual</b>	0,2	0,2	0	0	

#### **Objectives**

The objective of this workpackage was to promote and raise awareness among European researchers of the opportunities for research cooperation with Brazil and Cuba, the most promising areas of cooperation and potential partners.

#### **Progress**

The conference “The International Dimension of the Europe of Knowledge: a common interest to Europe and to the World” was, by far, the most important event used for dissemination purposes. This conference, which took place on October 6-7, 2005 was selected by Alicante University as a way of disseminating the PROMINENCE project. During the event approximately 20 people were personally contacted, who showed great interest in the projects results, the majority of these being scientists working in the areas addressed in the PROMINENCE study (D1). Apart from that, project dissemination material, such as Executive Summaries (100) and leaflets (100) were distributed during the two days of the event in different places.

Additionally, information about the project has been being widely disseminated via national channels in the partner countries (several targeted publications in the media, briefings, direct mailing, etc.). The project leaflet will be also used for informing potential participants about the project and training opportunities.

#### **Results**

The activities within this workpackage contributed to the development of deliverable D7 (integrating D4) as well as the creation of a project leaflet and the participation in dissemination events. Furthermore, it was considered that particular efforts should be made to intensify dissemination and networking activities particularly in the Life Science area. Therefore additional activities have been started to open information nodes in different regions in Brazil (Florianopolis, Rio Grande do Sul, Rio de Janeiro) as well as to establish stronger links to the recently started INCO initiatives (Multi-lateral call for the benefit of countries having signed a S&T agreement with the EC) with the Academy of Science and Ministry of Science in Brasilia. The latter initiative is aiming to set up a National Contact Point

as well as a FP7-information portal for Brazil (with the assistance of CORDIS) and the results from the PROMINENCE project will contribute to improve the consultancy and training services of this NCP. Within this context, potential European partners have not only been made aware of the possibility to integrate partners from Brazil and Cuba in new consortia for FP7 projects, as well as in ongoing projects in FP6 (top-up call with deadline in may 2006), but also of the future existence of a Brazilian FP7-portal.

## Workpackage 4. Training of trainers

<b>WP number:</b>	4	<b>Start date or start event:</b>			PM 1
<b>Activity Type:</b>	SSA				
<b>Participant id:</b>	<b>Eurice</b>	<b>UA</b>	<b>UDESC</b>	<b>UFPEL</b>	
<b>PM / planned</b>	2	0	0,2	0,2	
<b>PM / actual</b>	2,4	0,5	0,2	0,2	

### **Objectives**

The objective of this workpackage was to set up a sustainable supporting and facilitating infrastructure to provide information and training services to those local scientists and researchers who would like to get involved in joint projects with European partners.

### **Progress**

The training measure was developed on the basis of the study's results (WP1) and the knowledge of the European partners, who have previously carried out similar training activities for European and international scientists. This allowed the integration of "real life" examples, documents, templates, etc. into the training materials and enabled the participants to develop their skills through self-learning. The WP leader decided to focus on specific key areas, as the set of knowledge and skills necessary to provide quality services is very extensive and multi-disciplinary, covering different areas of project management, financial management, IPR, etc.

The overall aim was to provide a minimal tool-kit for participants to begin working as local consultants and trainers immediately after their return to Latin America. At the same time, the limited scope and capacities of the project did not allow extensive on-the-job training. That is why, specific emphasis was placed on enabling participants to search for and handle information properly in order to improve their skills. Also, the participants were provided with follow-up support via e-mail and telephone.

### **Results**

The project trained 8 multipliers during one full week. The training materials have been made available to the project participants via the login area of the project website.

### 1.1.4 Workpackage 5. Project management

<b>WP number:</b>	5	<b>Start date or start event:</b>			PM 1
<b>Activity Type:</b>	Management				
<b>Participant id:</b>	<b>Eurice</b>	<b>UA</b>	<b>UDESC</b>	<b>UFPEL</b>	
<b>PM / planned</b>	0,9	0,9	0	0	
<b>PM / actual</b>	1	1	0	0	

#### **Objectives**

Facilitate smooth and efficient project implementation and enable the achievement of the project objectives.

#### **Progress**

European Research and Project Office GmbH as project coordinator carried out the following managerial activities, during the project's life cycle:

- Everyday management and coordination
- Financial management;
- External representation of the project, promotion of its activities and results, etc.
- Communication on the daily basis with the partners (e-mail, telephone);
- Working coordination meetings collocated with the project events (i.e. the seminars in Brazil and Cuba);
- Communication with the Project Officer concerning the project implementation;
- Project documentation maintenance;
- Consultations concerning financial and administrative issues.

Additionally, EURICE setup the project website to support the project's presence in the Internet as well as facilitate the internal project communication and administration.

#### **Results**

Submission of all deliverables under its responsibility (see Deliverables List p. 14) as well as the distribution of the grant budget amongst the partners.

### 1.1.5 Deliverables list

Del. no. <sup>2</sup>	Deliverable name	WP no.	Lead participant	Nature	Dissemination level	Planned date <sup>3</sup> (project month)
D.1	EU-Brazil and EU-Cuba research cooperation: opportunities and potential (report and leaflet)	1	2	R	PU	8
D.2	Thematic seminar in Southern Brazil report	2	3	R	PU	12
D.3	Thematic seminar in Cuba report	2	2	R	PU	12
D.4	Report on dissemination activities in Europe	3	1	R	PU	12
D.5	How to get involved in European research project (training materials and analytical report)	4	1	R	PU	12
D.6	Project web site	1	1	O	PU	2
D.7	Dissemination and Use Plan	1	1	R	CO	12
D.8	Final report	1	1	R	CO	12

*For practical reasons, D4 and D7 have been submitted as one deliverable covering all dissemination activities for both Europe and Latin-America.*

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<sup>2</sup> Deliverable numbers in order of delivery dates: D1 – Dn

<sup>3</sup> Month in which the deliverables will be available. Month 1 marking the start of the project, and all delivery dates being relative to this start date.

## Final Plan for Using and Disseminating Knowledge

PROMINENCE has been designed as a moderately scaled Specific Support Action to raise awareness for Community R&D programmes in the regions of Cuba and the South of Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina). Therefore, the main sustainable impact has been achieved on local and regional level in the regions concerned. Due to the huge differences in geographical size between Cuba (115.000 km<sup>2</sup>) and Brazil (8,5 Mio km<sup>2</sup>), different approaches have been selected to disseminate the project results on national level. Dissemination activities within the island of Cuba have been centrally performed in Havana with the support of the Ministry for Research and Education and the “University of Havana” (Alma Mater) while, in Brazil, travel distances do not allow the Scientific Community to attend central dissemination activities (i.e. in Brasilia or Rio de Janeiro). For this reason, several dissemination events were organised in different regions and existing national and inter-regional networks have been used to raise awareness for FP6 and FP7 on a wider geographical scale. It is for the same reason, that a second information and training workshop was organised in Porto Alegre, as opposed to the original workplan in which only one workshop was planned for the South of Brazil.

Beside the training events, the main public outcomes of the project are:

- ❖ Project website: [www.prominence-online.net](http://www.prominence-online.net)
- ❖ Project brochure (500 copies)
- ❖ Complete set of information and training materials

As the PROMINENCE project was only scheduled for one year, a training-of-trainers (TOT) concept was used to ensure a wider and sustainable dissemination strategy beyond the project duration in addition to the seminars. Furthermore, the contact persons at the partner institutions in Cuba and Brazil agreed to act as local contact and information nodes for any requests for co-operation beyond the project implementation.

The objective of the dissemination activities in Europe were to attract European scientists to the R&D competences offered in both partner countries. With this regard, a leaflet was distributed at selected events in different member states and the project was presented to scientists and researchers in research areas with a high potential for co-operation, such as infectious diseases, food safety, animal health. The identification of these areas resulted from a study performed in Workpackage 1 at the beginning of the project.

The last three months of the project have been mainly dedicated to disseminate the project results to the wider audience: in total, 15 events have been organised or attended, among them 5 in Europe and 10 in Brazil/Cuba.

**List of dissemination activities**

Actual dates	Type	Type of audience	Countries addressed	Size of audience	Partner(s) responsible /involved
21.11.2005	Seminar in Florianopolis, Brazil	Scientists	Brazil	30	UDESC, EURICE, UA
24.11.2005	Seminar in Porto Allegre, Brazil	Scientists	Brazil	30	UFPEL, EURICE, UA
08.11.2005 - 09.11.2005	Seminar in Havana, Cuba	Scientists	Cuba	30	Ministry of Education, EURICE
07.09.2005 - 09.09.2005	Seminar in Salvador, Brazil EU-Delegation: "Initiatives and Co-operation programmes"	Scientists, HEIs	Brazil	25	UDESC
01.10.2005 - 05.10.2005	Biennial Congress of the Interamerican Organisation of Higher Education	Education experts	American countries	80	UDESC
28.11.2005 - 01.12.2005	Fortaleza, Lecture at the Federal University of Ceara	Scientists	Brazil	40	UDESC
02.12.2005 - 06.12.2005	Governador Valadares, University of Minas Gerais	Scientists	Brazil	35	UFPEL
06.10.2005 - 07.10.2005	Brussels, International Conference : "Europe of Knowledge"	Scientists, Researchers and Innovative Entrepreneurs	EU	200	UA
16.06.2005 - 18.06 2005	Presentation and Poster stand, EARMA Annual Conference, Genoa, Italy	Research	EU	150	EURICE
	Rio de Janeiro, Meeting with Konrad Adenauer Foundation,	National dissemination network partner	Brazil		UDESC
	Rio de Janeiro, Meeting with Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, and Candido Mendes University	Larger Brazilian universities	Brazil	15	UDESC



<b>Actual dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner(s) responsible /involved</b>
19.11.2005	Rio de Janeiro, Meeting with FIOCRUZ (Fiocruz is the largest R&D institution in the field of Life Sciences in Brazil)	Research	Brazil	6	EURICE
07.12. 2005	Stuttgart, "International Technology Co-operation Fair"	Companies, R&D institutes	Germany, France	250	EURICE
30.11.2005	Nancy, FP7 Information Day	Scientists	France	120	EURICE
14.11.2005 - 16.11.2005	Brussels, Communicating European Research Conference	Scientists, Researchers, Innovation Managers, Companies	EU	2100	EURICE