

## Deliverable 4.1

# Annual Report of Networking and Connecting Activities

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#### 1.1 EVIDENCE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT: Report

## **1.2 DISSEMINATION AND UPTAKE**

The document is public and will be thus disseminated.

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## WP4 NETWORKING AND CONNECTING

The objective of the WP is to identify and promote excellent business and innovation players, facilitate technology transfer and support exploitable ideas and results of completed research and innovation actions from LAC and Europe on selected priority topics for their commercialization. The WP has 4 tasks, as outlined below. Partners involved in this WP are FFG (WP Coordinator), FhG, SPI, RCISD, DLR and ANPEI.

## 1.1 TASK 4.1 COLLABORATION WITH CHAMBERS, FUNDING AGENCIES AND OTHER BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS IN EUROPE AND LAC TARGET COUNTRIES

#### Lead by FFG, supported by ANPEI

This Task aims to establish a stakeholder community with intermediaries and multipliers from the LAC innovation ecosystem and maintain good working relations and collaboration with them. These intermediary organizations have a wide range of customer portfolios, including the ones that are either engaged with international RTI collaboration or interested to get involved. This network could be of high interest to ENRICH in LAC Association for its services and activities.

To set the scope of the activities under this Task, a brainstorming exercise was made. Action recommendations for each multiplier (Agencies, Chambers, and Business Associations) are indicated in below image. Considering these recommendations and ad hoc requests that either the Project or the Association received during the year number of activities have been implemented. These activities are grouped as follows:

- Webinars, Workshops
- Networking Activities with Relevant Stakeholders
- New Initiatives

## **IDEAS and PLANS for T4.1**

TASK: 4.1

		DEAS and PLANS for	14.1	TASK: 4.1
es	Ideas As soon as the EU-CELAC Interest Group's 4th Call is launched (Sept.?) promote via Matchmaking Platform and organize dedicated webinars on 4 Call topics	Who Anneken Berna Theme Leaders	What Inform us about the Call calendar Convince the EU_CELAC Interest group to use our Mathmaking Platform-Add call and Webinar info Organize thematic webinars	When As soon as the Call info is available As soon as Call info is available Upon launch of the Calls (Sept-October'21)
Agencies	Launch Best Practice Series where we interview (cnline) with Agencies for their most innovative & effective instruments, activities on industry- academia cooperation or international cooperation)	Berna	Collect good practice examples from Agencies 1 - FFG 2 - CDT (?) 3 - FAPESP (?)	Starting with "Forderservice"-FFG on June 1st
	1- Identify ERA-NETS that are open for LAC participation on a call level 2- Promote these calls among LAC agencies 3- Identify Call calendar 4- Announce via Matchmaking Platform (if any LAC Agency participates)	Berna	Identify the ERA-NETS Identify the Call Calendar Promote to LAC Agencies Promote in the Matchmaking Platform	Starting from June 21
	Ideas Organize 5 Roundtables with Industry Assoc. from the target countries focusing on thematic topics. (Each country/Association separately)	<b>Who</b> ?	What Contact the Industry Associations Invite for a Webinar Session Organize /Stream from Youtube	When Starting from June '21
Chambers	Organise a Webinar with IP SME Helpdesk regarding intellectual property rights	Katrin	Contact the SME Help Desk/Agree on the Content Invite for a Webinar Session Organize /Stream from Youtube	Sept.'21
	Finalize the EEN topic with IBICT, EUDEL.ECProject Officer and EEN Repr. before the call for 2022-2028 period is launched.	Katrin/Markus		Until Sept.'21
	Organize a Webinar with EuroChambers and EuroCamaras to introduce ENRICH in LAC > update the presentation and include our services like management of Innovation Challenge	Anneken Katrin	Organize the Meeting Update the Presentation and provide details on the services	Anytime between May-june '21 Anytime between May-june '21
	Organize S Roundtables with EUMS repr. in target countries> Follow up of EU MS Roundtables. Better to focus on priority topics.	2	Invite MS Representatives (science Councilors and EUDEL) Set up the Meeting Calendar as 2 MS Repr. in each Meeeting Organize the Meetings and stream live from Youtube	Anytime between Sept-Dec.'21

Ideas	Who	What	When	
Make a Webinar Series with Investment organizations/ agencies from target countries	?	Identify Investment Agencies from 5 countries organize individual Webinars focusing on capacities and opportunities in the priority sectors	As soon as possible	Organizations
_				nvestment

#### 1.1.1 WEBINARS, WORKSHOPS

1.1.1.1 WEBINAR: EUREKA GLOBAL INNOVATION SUMMIT: Partnership for innovation: EU -Latin America (Session 18)

Organizer / co-organizer: FFG

Date: 19. 5.2021 (16:00- 17:30)

**Target audience:** Eureka Global Summit Participants (during the event) and later wider public through access to the recording in the ENRICH in LAC YouTube Platform.

#### Number of registrations / number of actual participants: 160/40

Language: EN

#### Short description of the topics addressed:

Within the scope of the EUREKA Global Innovation Summit 2021, a LAC dedicated session has been organized by FFG. This session aimed to identify research and innovation collaboration opportunities between the LAC countries and Europe in the areas of green and digital transition as well as to deliver post COVID-19 estimations and recommendations for more impactful collaborations. Participants from innovation and investment agencies from Latin America (Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Argentina) and Europe (Spain) shared their valuable knowledge and recommendations for strengthening EU-LAC cooperation in science, technology, innovation and trade.

#### Link to the event if recorded: https://youtu.be/NARMEEmyrZ8

Lessons Learned: It was the first biggest event of ENRICH in LAC with participation of high-level representatives from 4 Latin American and 2 European countries. New knowledge has been shared with the STI community, such as new regulation in Brazil that allows FINEP to commit/reserve funding for international cooperation; Colombia's and Chile's national innovation strategies, focus areas and opportunities. It was really time taking to organize this event within the big scope of EUREKA Global Summit due to many restrictions and regulations. Due to conference regulations, participation in the session was not possible without registering the whole event. On the other hand, such big (host) events have better outreach capacities. So balance between the advantages and disadvantages must be considered when planning an event within another big host event.

Additionally, 160 people registered but 40 participated. This is always the risk of events with parallel sessions at the same timeframe. However, those 40 participants were very interested and stayed in the session until the end.

#### 1.1.1.2 Driving Urban Transitions in Latin America and the Caribbean Workshop

#### Organizer/Co-organizer: FFG /JPIUE

Date: 28.6.2021 (15:00- 17:00)

This workshop aimed at bringing together all interested stakeholders from the LAC region in the field of sustainable urban development/transition areas.

#### Number of registrations / number of actual participants: 60/12

#### Language: EN

As sustainable urbanisation is a global issue, with global policy references, international cooperation plays an important role in Driving Urban Transitions (DUT). As a preparation for the future internationalisation activities, JPI Urban Europe and ENRICH in LAC jointly organized this workshop to bring in local (LAC) perspectives, experiences and knowledge. The aim is to identify critical fields for action on urban transitions which have the potential to be addressed jointly. Workshop aimed to

• Identify the most pressing issues, challenges and dilemmas connected to the three pillars of Driving Urban Transitions in Latin American and Caribbean countries

• Identify access points to jointly address those issues, challenges and dilemmas in cooperation schemes

• Exchange on opportunities for international stakeholders to continue the dialogue and engage in the partnership

1.1.1.3 Webinar on Europe - Latin American & Caribbean RTI Networking & Matchmaking Platform

#### Organizer: FFG

#### Date & Time: 21 April 2021 (16:00-17:00)

FFG introduced the Matchmaking Platform to the members of the ENRICH in LAC Association, showed them how to create a profile, join in the market space and look for partners. The Platform also provides extensive information on calls and funding possibilities that support EU-LAC STI collaboration. Currently, there are 4 open calls on various topics published on the platform.

1.1.1.4 Webinar Series on EU-Latin America: Opportunities for Technological Collaboration

Based on the suggestions, the concept paper of a Webinar series with 4 target LAC countries was prepared. The purpose of this Webinar series is to learn about national challenges arising from ecological and digital transitions and opportunities for technological collaboration between Europe and Argentina, Chile, Columbia, and Uruguay, focusing on following thematic priority areas, defined

by the ENRICH in LAC Initiative: Health, Bioeconomy, Renewable energy, sustainable cities, and digital transformation.

Each Webinar will be dedicated to one Latin American country. Issues to be addressed in each Webinar are indicated below. Min 1, max 2 expert speakers from national investment agencies and/or Chambers of these countries will provide insights related to one or more priority topics. Furthermore, Eurocamaras will be invited as event partner and asked to participate in every Webinar and make a presentation, reflecting their perspectives on each country. Therefore, each country webinar will have in total 2-3 speakers, one being from Eurocamaras representatives.

The series is expected to start in March 2022 and be completed within the year.

**Target Group:** European innovative companies wish to expand Latin American markets; other interested science, technology, and innovation actors from Europe and Latin America.

#### 1.1.2 NETWORKING ACTIVITIES WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

#### 1.1.2.1 Meetings with Vanzolini Foundation (Sao Paolo)

#### **Organizer:** ENRICH in LAC Management Board

Date & Time: 11 Juni 2021 (16:00-17:00) ; 1 Juli 2021 (15:00-16:30) ; 23 November 2021(14:00-15:00)

Vanzolini Foundation is a long-standing SP-based non-profit organization. Its main expertise is in the production and dissemination of innovative knowledge in production engineering and operations management, both for the industrial segment and for the services sector (The first certification body of quality systems ISO 9000 accredited in the country). In response to the contemporary challenge to provide quality education on a large scale, its activities also include the research & development, studies, and the implementation of projects that combine technology and education.

These meeting series were organized to discuss collaboration possibilities under sustainable urbanization topics. Based on the discussions, ENRICH in LAC association sent them a comprehensive offer indicating various collaboration possibilities. At the end of the 3rd meeting, all parties (Vanzolini Foundation, ENRICH in LAC association as well as JPIUE) agreed to undertake some activities jointly in 2022. These activities will focus on hands-on trainings on urban living lab toolkit that is being widely used in Europe, as well as coordination with FAPESP, FINEP, and other funding agencies from Brazil (as well as other interested LAC countries) to promote the joint international call in 2022 by the Driving Urban Transition European Partnership. Furthermore, the Foundation became a member of the Association. Nevertheless, to assure participation from over 600 municipalities in the SP region, the foundation indicated the need for funding. ENRICH in LAC got in contact with the European Delegation to explore the funding opportunities beyond HEurope programme. Other local opportunities are also followed. Extra funding is critical for wide participation in the trainings, which are planned to take place in the second half of 2022 in Brazil (and maybe in other LAC countries).

#### 1.1.2.2 Meeing with Ampliamundo

#### Organizer: ENRICH in LAC Association

#### Date & Time: 17.05.2021 14:00-15:00

Under the thematic priority of sustainable development ENRICH in LAC and Amplia mundo exchanged ideas and possibilities, especially ENRICH in LAC'spotential support in bringing good examples from Europe. Amplia mundo is a Brazilian consulting company specialized in transforming tourism and hospitality services in line with future trends.

1.1.2.3 Meeting with ANI (Innovation Agency of URUGUAY)

#### Organizer: FFG

Date & Time: 23.11.2021 15:30-16:30

Following up a previous meeting organized by ENRICH in LAC Association with ANI, this meeting aimed to get updates about the Latin Amerian innovation agency network (RELAI) supported by the IDB through ANI, one of the members of the Network, and request to disseminate ENRICH in LAC services for innovation Agencies.

#### 1.1.2.4 Meeting with Camera Commercio Italiana (Argentina)

Organizer: ENRICH in LAC Association

Date & Time: 28.5.2021 14:00-15:00

In this meeting ENRICH in LAC and Camera Commercio Italiana, which is the host of Eurocamaras in Argentina discussed collaboration possibilities. Despite extensive regional knowledge and experience, a lack of funding to support collaboration between European and LAC companies was underlined by Eurocamaras representatives. ENRICH invited Eurocamaras to be the event Partner of the Webinar series with investment organizations.

#### 1.1.3 NEW INITIATIVES

# 1.1.3.1 STEP by Step Guide on How to get funding from EMBRAPII to support RTI cooperation between Brazil and Europe?

As part of its service portfolio, ENRICH in LAC promotes EU-LAC RTI collaboration opportunities, such as joint research and innovation calls with funding possibilities. Although joint transnational calls are a widely used tool by innovation agencies in Europe, participation of Brazilian funding agencies in the existing networks or calls is rare. One of these programs is the IraSME program. IraSME is a network of ministries and funding agencies that are owners and/or managers of national or regional funding programmes for cooperative research and development projects between small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The network consists of the following members: Alberta (Canada), Austria, Brazil, Czech Republic, Flanders (Belgium), Germany, Luxembourg, Russia, Turkey, Wallonia (Belgium). EMBRAPII is the Brazilian Agency for Industrial Research and Technological Innovation (EMBRAPII) that supports Brazilian companies in this Network. However, due to the different (and unusual) funding model of EMBRAPII, collaboration opportunities are underutilized. This situation is confirmed by the IraSME Network coordinator (Germany) as well as EMBRAPII Director Carlos Pereira in our talks with them. To clarify the process and help Brazilian companies to initiate international RTI collaboration activities, ENRICH in LAC prepared a guide for Brazilian companies based on the extensive knowledge and experience of an expert who was a former EMBRAPII Unit Director. This Guide clarifies the required processes and makes practical suggestions for Brazilian and European STI actors, mainly the innovative companies on how to engage and sustain bilateral/multilateral collaboration. European companies can also benefit from this guide by understanding the procedures on the Brazilian side and coordinating the collaboration process more effectively.

The Guide is prepared in English and in Portuguese and available to download from the ENRICH in LAC website.

#### 1.1.3.2 Joining in the EEN Brazil Consortium for the New Term (2022-2025)

The Enterprise Europe Network is the world's largest support network for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with international ambitions. helps businesses innovate and grow on an international scale. The current EEN NCPs served between 2015-2020 (with +1 year extension). The new call for the 2021-2027 term for international partners was launched in August 2021. The current National contact Point from Brazil is IBICT, which is the branch of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI). Being an EEN NCP was a long-term ambition for the ENRICH in LAC project, as was already stated in the proposal. All relevant EU authorities (such as EU Delegation to Brazil, the Project Officer at the EC as well as EASME Project Officer) were informed about this objective, and support was requested. After persistent efforts to get in contact with IBICT, ENRICH in LAC association joined in the Brazil consortium together with IBICT and EMBRAPII for the new term (2021-2025) and took a very active role in the proposal writing phase. The proposal has been summited by IBICT end of October and currently, we are waiting for the evaluation results. ENRICH in LAC Association will be responsible for the implementation of Activity 1 Provision of value-added services to businesses if the proposal is positively evaluated. The Centre's becoming the EEN Brazil NCP would create a win-winwin situation for all parties involved. The ENRICH in LAC Centre's main mission is to facilitate tech. transfer and partnering between European and BR organizations. Being part of this big network will help the Centre to increase its capacity, leverage its efforts, and be recognized as one of the "main organizations" supporting EU-BR STI cooperation among SMEs. IBICT will receive support but still stay as the main contact point (coordinator); the EC would also appreciate having an ambitious and capable contact point outside of the EU that will do all efforts to increase Brazil's participation in the EEN.

#### 1.1.3.3 Consultancies for Partner Finding for the IraSME Call

Within the scope of IraSME 29th Call, ENRICH in LAC joined in the matchmaking activities and organized meetings with 2 innovative Startups from 2 member countries. These Startups are interested in establishing collaboration with Brazilian companies and submitting a joint proposal as EMBRAPII is one of the participating agencies in this Call. ENRICH in LAC will put these companies in contact with relevant EMBRAPII Units as well as look for Brazilian companies to join in the consortium through its members and networks. The deadline of this Call is 30 March 2022. This Network launches joint transnational calls 2 times a year.

#### 1.2 TASK 4.2 INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Based on the experience gained during the ENRICH in Brazil period (2017-2020) ENRICH in LAC will continue with the Innovation Challenge mechanism to bring together LAC challenges with European solutions. Together with public and/or private organizations (including municipalities) in Brazil and the four other Latin American target countries, the ENRICH Centre will launch an innovation challenge in years 2 and 3 (starting from M25 on) on different societal challenges or problems based on the needs and interests of the partnering organization (s). While the challenge comes from the LAC side, the European companies will be invited to propose technology-based solutions for these challenges. The technology that they propose can be new (innovative) or old technology to be used in this specific field newly. European companies will be encouraged to apply jointly with companies from LAC. This activity will start as of 2022.

#### 1.3 TASK 4.3 OUTREACH GRANTS

Annual calls will be launched to support research and innovation-driven SMEs and Startups for their Outreach activities in terms of feasibility visits and small-scale support measures for participation in important fairs and conferences. According to the DoW, activities are expected to start as of M25. A call guideline is currently under preparation. Outreach grants are planned to be announced in Q1 to be effective as Q3 and Q4 focus on the priority topics.

Depending on the COVID-19 developments and regulations this task can be postponed to 2023.

#### 1.4 TASK 4.4 INNOVATION TOURS

It is planned to organise annual Innovation Tours to the LAC region to explore the regional/local technology ecosystem in the defined priority fields. Planned in conjunction with an international or regional (LAC) event related to the industries in focus, the tour takes up to 1 week and includes 2-4 different cities/regions. Participants will have the chance to meet the major technology players in these fields, present their idea/product /service and learn about the host organisations' technological standing as well as challenges. Due to the COVID-19 situation, no activity was organized in 2021. This task plans its first tour in the second quarter of 2022, depending on the international travel and working conditions.

#### 1.5 TASK 4.5 EXPLOITATION OF RESULTS

This task aims to support the exploitation of results of completed and/or ongoing research projects in the following fields: bioeconomy, sustainable urbanisation, renewable energy, and digital transformation. Activities of this task will start in 2022. Collaboration with local /regional actors, such as investment agencies and chambers as well as the IPR SME Help desk will be explored for the execution of the consultancy services.