



ENRICH

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
CENTRES AND HUBS,
LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

April | 2022

ENRICH MONTHLY



**MONTHLY BUSINESS & INNOVATION
NEWS COMPILED BY ENRICH IN LAC**



ENRICH is an initiative of the European Union, executed in Latin America by the ENRICH in LAC project, that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101004572. Responsibility for the information and views set out in this publication lies entirely with the authors.

Country Profile: Sweden

Sweden is one of the most innovative and research-intensive nations in the world, making it an excellent innovation partner for LAC as well.



ENRICH in LAC Twinning Programme 1st session 2022

The 1st session of the Twinning Programme for Soft-Landing Hubs organised by ENRICH in LAC took place on April 6-8, 2022.



Priority Topic: Bioeconomy

Insights about the concept of Bioeconomy as well as information about its relevance in industries using alternative materials and hemp



Alameda Franca, 1050
10o. andar, Jardins
São Paulo - SP – Brazil
<https://lac.enrichcentres.eu/contact-us/>



EDITORIAL



Dear Reader,

a warm welcome and thank you for your time and interest in our April edition of the ENRICH Monthly. In each edition we provide you with the latest Science, Technology and Innovation related news from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

AL-INVEST has been the European Union's (EU) flagship programme for SME promotion and support in Latin America (LA) over the last two decades. The current programme aims to promote economic growth alongside environmental sustainability by mobilising EU know-how and investment in support of green transition-related alliances with the private sector in LA. In this edition, we share with you the 1st AL-INVEST Verde Call for Proposals for Innovative Partnership Projects (p.19.)

Bioeconomy, in its broadest concept, seeks directly to transform knowledge into sustainable industrial development in areas related to the management and use of biological resources. Over the years, the view on the Bioeconomy has been changing, due to technological advances or innovations that are closely linked to the area of biotechnology. In this edition, we provide you

with insights about the concept of Bioeconomy in general as well as its relevance in Industries using alternative materials and hemp and its standing in the LAC region (p. 23).

With a GDP of \$537 billion (2020) and a population of 10.4 million, Sweden is the largest Nordic economy and boasts a transparent, highly developed, sophisticated and diversified market. Sweden also consistently ranks among the top 10 worldwide for its connectivity, governance, investment in R&D, and business climate. Also for LAC, Sweden is an excellent innovation partner as the country has a long-established tradition of expertise in manufacturing and engineering, mining, shipbuilding and life science. Learn more about Spain's Economic, Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Landscape, National STI Priorities and Funding opportunities in Horizon Europe (p. 25).

If you enjoy reading ENRICH Monthly e-magazine, please do not hesitate to recommend it to your peers and share the following subscription [link](#). We also welcome your feedback by [e-mail](#).

All the best for you,
ENRICH in LAC Team

SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT'S INSIDE:

LATEST NEWS LAC & EUROPE

PUBLIC CALLS

ENRICH IN LAC TWINNING PROGRAMME: 1ST SESSION 2022

PRIORITY TOPIC: BIOECONOMY

COUNTRY PROFILE: SWEDEN

LATEST NEWS

LAC AND

EUROPEAN UNION

Food security: Commission steps up support for global action to transform food systems via eight Global Coalitions

In light of the dire food security situation and high food prices, after two years of COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the European Commission is stepping up its support to the transformation of food systems by actively engaging in eight global Coalitions for Action. These will assist partner countries in their efforts to transform food systems and help to advance the Farm to Fork Strategy agenda internationally. The decision to actively engage in these eight voluntary alliances for collective action is a follow-up to the Food Systems Summit held on 23-24 September 2021 in New York. The alliances gather national representatives, civil society organisations, researchers and international organisations to achieve transformation action in the field of food security. The Commission will be a major partner in eight coalitions:

- ❖ **Food is never waste** will support countries in developing a suite of context specific interventions, ranging from policies and regulations to voluntary initiatives, to halve food waste by 2030 and reduce food losses by at least 25%.
- ❖ **Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children & all** will address three issues: malnutrition in all its forms; unsafe food; and the environmental impact of food production. For instance, it will promote healthy diets with a higher plant-based contribution.

- ❖ **School Meals Coalition** will focus on improving the quality and expanding the scale of school meals programmes globally as a platform to reach communities. The Coalition intends to link school meals with provision of healthy food by local farmers and sees school feeding as part of social protection schemes. School feeding can have a positive effect on enhancing school enrolment and attendance.
- ❖ **Aquatic and Blue Foods** aims to realise the full potential of sustainable aquatic, foods – such as fish, shellfish, aquatic plants and algae, captured or cultivated in freshwater or marine ecosystems – to help end malnutrition and build nature-positive, equitable and resilient food systems.
- ❖ **Agro-ecology** aims at scaling up agro-ecological practices and value chains, which hold the potential for more inclusive and sustainable food systems. The focus is on supporting innovation, making use of local and scientific knowledge.
- ❖ **Zero Hunger** will advocate for hunger reduction and better align existing public and private sector resources for hunger reduction. The Coalition will back investments that have proven positive effects on small farm livelihoods, such as participation in farmers' organisations, extension services for women farmers, vocational programmes for rural youths, storage and cold chains.
- ❖ **Fighting food crises along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus** aims to create the conditions and enabling structures for an approach to food systems resilience in fragile contexts, such as anticipatory action and development of shock-responsive social protection schemes.
- ❖ **Sustainable Productivity Growth** focuses on technology and innovations for agricultural productivity growth while addressing climate change challenges. It will provide a platform for sharing best practices, identifying knowledge gaps and research opportunities.

The European Commission will work closely with Member States, UN agencies, civil society and other partners in the selected coalitions to enhance collective action in favour of a sustainable transformation of food systems.

Further information: [Commission to transform food systems \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/food/comm-coalitions/)

EUROPEAN UNION



LATEST NEWS

LAC AND

EUROPEAN UNION

Start-up villages: a commitment to a long-term vision for rural areas

Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, meets a dozen representatives of villages and rural areas that host start-ups, specialised, among others, in energy and food and agri-system innovation. The Commissioner uses the opportunity to discuss with representatives of rural communities their needs to generate favourable conditions to attract businesses, pull investments for innovative projects, and create local job opportunities.

The virtual meeting today follows the launch event of the Startup Village Forum in November 2021 and the first results of the call for pledges. It will provide a unique opportunity to connect startup villages across the EU with the heart of the EU policy making and to develop a dialogue between European Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, local authorities and entrepreneurs, on how innovation in rural areas can help tackle key challenges such as depopulation, food security and energy autonomy.

Why rural areas?

Rural areas are a core component of the European way of life and identity. Yet, in recent decades, social, economic, and demographic transformations such as globalisation, urbanisation and ageing have challenged rural communities. The COVID-19 pandemic's asymmetric impact on European territories has added uncertainty to vulnerability – while opening promising new perspectives as economies adapt and people look to a better quality of life.

In this context, rural areas can turn vulnerabilities into opportunities. The long-term vision for rural areas recognises the enabling role of innovation to empower citizens and entrepreneurs to seize these opportunities. A flagship action on research and innovation for rural communities aims to help tackle the challenges and reap the opportunities for wellbeing and growth.

Further information: [Start-up villages: a commitment to a long-term vision for rural areas \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)

New European Bauhaus: Commission launches 'NEB LAB' with new projects and call for Friends

The New European Bauhaus is an environmental, economic, and cultural project, aiming to combine design, sustainability, accessibility, affordability, and investment to help deliver the [European Green Deal](#). Launched by President von der Leyen in her [2020 State of the Union address](#), the New European Bauhaus was co-designed together with thousands of people and organisations across Europe and further beyond.

The European Commission is launching the [NEB LAB](#): a 'think and do' tank to make the New European Bauhaus a reality through concrete and tangible projects. By connecting the initiative's growing community and sharing ideas, it will bring about beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive changes on the ground.

The launch of the 'NEB LAB' starts with a [call for Friends](#) of the New European Bauhaus to involve companies and public actors such as regions, villages and cities, more directly in the NEB.

NEB LAB projects starting already today include the development of New European [Bauhaus labelling tools](#), [work on regulatory framework conditions](#), and a [survey](#) among construction companies, architects, urban planners and other actors to identify barriers for the implementation of NEB projects in the construction and housing sector.

Further information: [Launch of 'NEB LAB' with new projects and call for Friends \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)

EUROPEAN UNION



CONACYT announces its commitment to finance Mexican institutions and researchers participating in Horizon Europe calls

The Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (Conacyt) announced at a launch event on 23 March 2022 a new co-funding scheme “Puerta Horizonte Europa”, which will provide financial support for Mexican partners in successful Horizon Europe projects. The scheme aims to encourage the participation of Mexican entities in Horizon Europe calls and to strengthen bilateral relations between the EU and Mexico in science, technology and innovation. Puerta Horizonte Europa follows up the CONACYT-Horizon 2020, co-funding scheme established in 2014.

Director for Global Approach & International Cooperation at DG Research and Innovation Maria Cristina Russo emphasized the importance of this mechanism for stimulating cooperation between the EU and Mexican scientific communities. The new scheme, in line with the EU [Global Approach to Research and Innovation](#), reconfirms the bilateral commitment to the global openness needed to drive excellence, pool resources for faster scientific progress and develop vibrant innovation ecosystems.

EU Ambassador to Mexico Gautier Mignot recalled the recent launch of the Team Europe Initiative aimed at facilitating the green transition in Mexico in areas such as circular economy, electric mobility, energy transition or sustainable cities and hoped for an active participation of Mexican scientists in those areas covered by Horizon Europe.

The mechanism is expected to be published by Mexico on 25 April 2022, with two modalities for participation:

- ❖ In Modality 1, Mexican institutions, both public and private, can apply with own funds in the wide range of Horizon Europe calls.
- ❖ In Modality 2, the call will identify topics from the Horizon Europe WP in the areas of health, energy and human security. There is an initial allocation of one million euros for the period 2022-2024 targeting 8 projects with a maximum allocation of 125,000 euro per project. The resources will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Therefore, projects participating through modality 2 must guarantee that they have their own resources when applying to a Horizon Europe call.

Further information on the “Puerta Horizonte Europa Call” can be found on the official website of Conacyt (www.conacyt.mx).

LATEST NEWS

LAC AND

EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN UNION





ARGENTINA

The Federal Network of Innovative SMEs launched

The National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation (R&D&I Agency), through FONTAR, and the Directorate of Technological Development and Innovation of the MINCyT presented the Federal Network of Innovative SMEs. This initiative seeks to generate a space for those companies that make investment in science and technology a key element of their development to establish links, agree on work agendas and strengthen themselves from the exchange of experiences. The launch was attended by more than 160 SMEs from all over the country.

The Federal Network of Innovative SMEs arose from the need, expressed in dialogue tables held by the R&D&I Agency and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation with representatives of companies from different parts of the country, to accompany innovative SMEs beyond the financial. The objective is that the network continues to be developed from a joint work between the Agency, the Ministry and the companies so that productive actors belonging to diverse areas such as artificial intelligence, industry 4.0, the circular economy, electromobility, satellite communication or the production of biomedical inputs are enhanced from sharing knowledge and skills and explore lines of common interest.

The instrumentation will be carried out with the methodological collaboration of the EMPRETEC Foundation. Six workshops will be organized, some face-to-face and others virtual, where different dimensions that make innovation and different strategies to promote it will be addressed.

Further information: [The Federal Network of Innovative SMEs was launched | Argentina.gov.ar](#)

The second edition of the "Merck – CONICET Award for Innovation in Health Sciences 2022" presented

The ceremony held at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany on the occasion of the presentation of the second edition of the "Merck – CONICET Award for Innovation in Health Sciences 2022". Applicants may submit innovations, solutions, designs and/or projects in one or more of the following areas: Bio-Interfaces and Bio-Sensors, solutions for the treatment and monitoring of oncological and/or neurological diseases, diagnostic tests for Neurological and/or Oncological diseases and/or for Fertility, Microbiome, Artificial Intelligence applied to health, Synthetic biology, Industry 4.0 applied to health, Robotics, Digital Health and Biotechnology.

Those entrepreneurs who have a scientific and/or technological based project in the field of health that generates value to society may participate in the Call. The applicant can be any Argentine citizen under the age of 45 (as of April 30, 2022), and membership of CONICET is not an exclusive requirement.

Further information [here](#)

Innovation as a key component of sustainable development

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation organized a conference at the Latin American level together with the Smart IP initiative of the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Germany. The III Annual Conference of the Smart IP for Latin America initiative entitled "Innovation as a key component of sustainable development" was held.

During the conference, different technology-based companies from Latin America shared the routes traveled and explained how they managed to transform knowledge into innovation. In addition, two panels made up of jurists and innovation economists sought to identify common learnings and challenges that allow working on regulatory frameworks and economic incentives that improve the processes of technological development in Latin America, and that serve as an input to reflect and deepen the matter at the local level.

Further information: [Innovation as a key component of sustainable development | Argentina.gov.ar](#)

LAC AND

EUROPEAN UNION

LATEST NEWS

LAC AND

EUROPEAN UNION

CONICET and Amazon Web Services awarded innovative multidisciplinary initiatives

In an event held at the Scientific and Technological Pole of the City of Buenos Aires, the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) and Amazon Web Services (AWS), presented the projects selected in the call "Innova CONICET – AWS: Research driven by the cloud" that supports research initiatives in the major areas of knowledge. The main objective of the public-private partnership was to accelerate projects and strengthen, through the infrastructure and services that AWS provides in the cloud, scientific and technological development and Innovation in Argentina and Latin America.

The award day was consolidated as a space for dialogue and reflection on the implications of linking and transferring technologies, as well as the importance of applied research. The Manager of Technological Linkage of CONICET, Sergio Romano, congratulated the participants of the call, as well as the jury that works ad honorem with the will to collaborate with the community. "We received 51 projects of which 14 were selected, with the strength that they are from different parts of the territory and that they obey different demands."

The event was an opportunity to meet and reward the selected projects with promotional credits, from AWS services, for a global amount of USD 150 thousand US dollars.

Further information: [CONICET and Amazon Web Services awarded innovative multidisciplinary initiatives | Argentina.gob.ar](#)

ARGENTINA



The Ministries of Science and Productive Development announced projects that will promote the development of national industries in strategic areas

At the Nuclear Diagnostic Center Foundation (FCDN), it was announced the start of execution of the Strategic Projects of Scientific and Technological Base oriented to industrial missions. The initiative, coordinated jointly by the National Directorate of Strategic Projects (DNPE) of the MINCyT and the National Directorate of Argentine Purchase and the Supplier Development Program (PRODEPRO) of the MPROD, seeks that national suppliers of scientific and technological inputs of strategic industries based on knowledge are developed and, in this way, imports are substituted, increase high value-added exports, generate skilled employment, and promote national adoption of products and services developed in the country.

The projects, which are part of the first edition of the call (2021), are developed specifically in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Río Negro, Santa Fe, CABA, and will receive financing through the National Supplier Development Program (PRODEPRO) for a total of \$104,008,180 pesos in non-refundable contributions and \$78,400,000 pesos for credit rate bonus.

Eight projects selected. The funded projects are part of the value chains of strategic sectors such as health; mining and hydrocarbons; rail and naval transport, sustainable mobility and aerospace; green technology; defense and security; and industry 4.0. These projects will be executed by companies producing industrial goods and services adhering to the PRODEPRO Network, which have scientific and technological background, industrial vision and seek to scale their production. From the financing, they will be able to make investments in fixed capital, instruments, molds and dies, tests, certifications, expansion of production plants, acquisition of software and implementation of industry 4.0, among other items. In addition, companies will be able to access assistance through training, incorporation of design and improvements in management technologies. The funded projects will be monitored and accompanied by the DNPE and PRODEPRO in the development of their activities in order to contribute to the achievement of their objectives and enhance their social, productive and environmental impacts.

Further information: [The Ministries of Science and Productive Development announced projects that will promote the development of national industries in strategic areas | Argentina.gob.ar](#)



BRAZIL

New Challenges for Research in Brazil

FAPESP and Brazil's National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) recently assembled heads of research funding agencies, research institutions and universities to discuss mission-oriented research, an increasingly important topic on research funding agendas worldwide.

Some of FAPESP's initiatives already follow the principle of mission-oriented research such as the two calls for proposals to establish Science for Development Centers, a call for the Basic Education Research Program (PROEDUCA), partnerships with state governments, and the Amazon+10 Fund, which involves São Paulo and nine states in Amazonia.

Mariana Mazzucato, Professor at University College London (UCL) "The economic problems many countries are facing and still trying to get over, the downturn caused by the pandemic, are occurring at the same time as another really urgent problem, which is the climate crisis (...) We need a new way of thinking about the capacity and capabilities of our public organizations." she said.

"I believe one of the toughest challenges of mission-oriented research for Brazil is precisely making the Amazon a priority," said Márcia Perales, President of the Amazonas Research Foundation (FAPEAM). "We need science, funding, human resources, productive interactive flows, universities, and technology institutes".

According to Pedro Passos, co-founder of Natura "To solve our country's problems, we need to reorganize its institutions with a sense of urgency and on a large scale," he said. In the case of the transition to a low-carbon economy, Brazil has comparative advantages but the regulatory framework must be put in place quickly and market solutions need to align Brazil with the international landscape to ensure competitiveness.

For Luiz Davidovich, President of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (ABC), the pandemic magnified the nation's problems, "especially inequality", and encouraged critical thinking among many people. "We need to choose investment priorities," he said, suggesting three: the Amazon, renewable energy, and basic education.

For Fernanda De Negri, a researcher at the Institute for Applied Economics (IPEA) "high-impact science can't be done without large-scale research labs, and outside the universities, we have few of those in Brazil," she said, citing the Brazilian Center for Research in Energy and Materials (CNPEM), Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), and the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA).

A complete recording of the seminar can be watched on [Agência FAPESP's YouTube channel](#).

Further information: [The new challenges for research in Brazil | AGÊNCIA FAPESP](#)

Young Innovators Week Brazil is looking for young innovators from Germany

The German Science and Innovation House (DWIH) São Paulo is organizing the Young Innovators Week (YIW) Brazil 2022 from May 23 to 27, in collaboration with the Research in Germany initiative and the Innovation Agency of the University of São Paulo. Young entrepreneurs with science-based ideas were able to apply until 10.02.2022, and 10 of them will be selected for an immersion week in São Paulo to learn more about the Brazilian innovation landscape, to exchange ideas with colleagues in Brazil and to be informed about business opportunities and bilateral relations.

The Young Innovators Week Brazil is aimed at young innovators from Germany who want to found a science-based startup. During the event, participants will be introduced to Brazilian business culture and visit local institutions. Opportunities for exchange will also be provided.

Further information: [Young Innovators Week Brazil sucht junge Innovator:innen aus Deutschland | DWIH Sao Paulo \(dwih-saopaulo.org\)](#).

LATEST NEWS

LAC AND

EUROPEAN UNION

LATEST NEWS

LAC AND

EUROPEAN UNION

Association of European Researchers in Brazil

In January 2022 EURAXESS announced the creation of the Association of European Researchers in Brazil. According to its founding charter, the Association aims to provide a forum where European researchers working in Brazil can get together, self-organise, and discuss how to improve their collaboration with the European Research Area. The network of the Association was therefore created to build bridges between Brazil and Europe tackling the unique set of challenges faced, in alliance with those who have experienced or continue to experience the same.

They have identified two flows of activities: Facilitating the integration of European researchers moving to Brazil, whether for short, long-term or permanent stays and amplifying and improving the collaboration among Brazil-based researchers who are doing research with Europe.

In order to do so the Association was organized in three sessions:

- ❖ Connecting and integrating incoming European researchers moving to Brazil. Share experience between researchers who are long-established in Brazil, and newcomers, and help the newcomers navigate the Brazilian academic system.
- ❖ Partnerships with Europe for Brazil-based researchers. Share experience on how to prepare a proposal for different kinds of collaboration (student exchanges, international projects, events organisation, etc.) supported by the different funding agencies – both European and Brazilian.
- ❖ Culture, to promote intercultural issues: workshops, and a lecture series on Brazilian and European culture, politics, history and languages, all within an intercultural perspective. Collaboration with organisations such as the Goethe-Institut, Alliances Françaises, and Instituto Cervantes. Sharing good practices on multilingualism in the European Research Area with Brazilian research institutions.

If you are a European researcher in Brazil you can contact the Association by filling out the form [here](#).

Inauguration of Inatel's OpenRAN Laboratory

The National Telecommunications Institute (Inatel), in Santa Rita do Sapucaí (MG), promoted the 8th of April the inauguration of the OpenRAN Lab, in partnership with the Telecom Infra Project (TIP). The initiative will bring together operators, companies and researchers in an environment to create and validate open connectivity solutions for 5G.

The OpenRAN movement aims to ease the access to telecommunications networks through open and unbundled software and hardware solutions that are interoperable and flexible, making more room for innovative services. "This gives us technological sovereignty, so that we can build in strategic segments the opportunity to have Brazilian companies generating solutions, quality jobs and Brazilian products with high added value." said Minister Paulo Alvim.

Carlos Nazareth, director of Inatel, affirms that taking part in the TIP Project was essential to bring more competitiveness, low-cost and open solutions and make telecommunications more present for those who need connectivity.

The Telecom Infra Project is a global community founded in 2016 with the goal of supporting solutions to advance global connectivity. Inatel's lab joins 15 others around the world to join the initiative. MCTI also invests in OpenRAN in a partnership with the National Education and Research Network (RNP/MCTI) and the Telecommunications Research and Development Center (CPQD). The project relies on IT Law resources of around R\$ 32 million.

Further information: [Ministro participa de inauguração do Laboratório OpenRAN do Inatel, em Minas Gerais — Português \(Brasil\) \(www.gov.br\)](#)

BRAZIL



DWIH São Paulo celebrates its 10th anniversary

For a decade, the German Science and Innovation House (DWIH) São Paulo has been fostering knowledge exchange and new collaborations to find solutions to humanity's grand challenges through science and innovation.

February 2022 marked 10 years since the institution inaugurated its current premises and established representations of supporting organizations in its offices. Since then, the center has established itself as a hub between Brazil and Germany, and the number of associated German science and innovation institutions continues to grow.

With a total of 27 associated organizations for the anniversary month, DWIH São Paulo has the broadest range of active connections in the German higher education, science and innovation system within the DWIH network. Launched in 2009 by the German Foreign Office, the German centers aim to present Germany as a "land of ideas," i.e., as an ideal science and technology location, and to promote synergies and exchanges between Germany's scientific institutions and the countries where these DWIHs have been established.

DWIH São Paulo, the only one in Latin America and the Southern Hemisphere, is part of an expanding network that will have six branches on three continents in 2022. The initial facilities in New York, Tokyo, New Delhi, Moscow and São Paulo will be joined this year by another, DWIH San Francisco. The presence of the São Paulo metropolis in the network will do justice to the German interest in the high level of Brazilian higher education, research and education. The inauguration of DWIH São Paulo was a milestone for a new phase of bilateral relations between the two countries.

DWIH connects both sides at events and at the same time seeks individual contact to encourage researchers from academia, innovators in business and young entrepreneurs from Brazil and Germany, to advance collaboration, knowledge transfer and the market introduction of products and services based on scientific research results.

Network

In order to achieve its objectives, namely to strengthen scientific exchange between Brazil and Germany and to bring together representatives from science and industry in Brazil, DWIH São Paulo has built up a program of its own activities step by step over the years, as well as others at the initiative of

internal and external partners. These initiatives include the ["Deutsch-Brasilianischer Dialog über Wissenschaft, Forschung und Innovation" series](#), already launched in the inaugural year, the organization of the German representation at the **annual meeting** of the [Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science \(Sociedade Brasileira para o Progresso da Ciência - SBPC\)](#), and the [German-Brazilian Congress on Innovation and Sustainability](#).

One of DWIH São Paulo's most important partnerships was established in 2015 with the [Research Promotion Foundation of the State of São Paulo \(Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo - Fapesp\)](#), which has since been instrumental in shaping the German-Brazilian Dialogue. In addition, there is the cooperation with the [Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science \(SBPC\)](#), also decided in 2015, of which DWIH has been an institutional partner since 2020, and, last but not least, the close cooperation with the [AHK São Paulo](#).

Key scientific debates of DWIH São Paulo and its partners

Clean Energies, Bioeconomy, Industry 4.0, Digitalization, Precision Technology in Agriculture, Smart Cities, Climate, Mobility, Medicine and Health, Access to Education, Social Inequality, Population Aging, Complex Systems, Democracy, Economy, Public Policy, Radicalization and Human Rights. These were some of the current topics that DWIH São Paulo discussed or promoted in its first ten years of existence.

By addressing issues such as those mentioned above, which are in the focus of discussions about the present and future of society, DWIH São Paulo contributes to the transfer of scientific knowledge to business, society and public administration. Since 2012, the institution has been committed to science as a basis for solutions to the major challenges of the 21st century. It could not be otherwise, since fostering scientific collaboration, sharing knowledge, and building networks of researchers and innovators - all of these have proven extremely fruitful over the past decade.

"In short, DWIH São Paulo celebrates its first anniversary with the conviction of having made an important contribution to science and society so far, but also with the awareness that many other goals still need to be achieved in the relations between Brazil and Germany," affirms DWIH Director Hellmann.

Further information [here](#).



Astronomy Day 2022: More than 100 activities and an augmented reality app to observe the Universe from Chile

The autumnal equinox, with the Sun perched exactly on the Equator line, not only marks the end of summer and the beginning of a new season. Every March 21 is also a special date for lovers of the sky and the exploration of the Universe: the National Day of Astronomy, a commemoration that is coordinated by the [Public Science](#) program of the Ministry of Science, together with the [Chilean Society of Astronomy](#) (SOCHIAS) and the [Planetarium of the University of Santiago](#).

This year, under the so-called #ChileMiraTuCielo, the celebration run until March 27, with a billboard of more than 100 face-to-face and online activities organized by public and private institutions linked to this discipline.

Planets, stars and observatories in 3D

One of the novelties of Astronomy Day 2022 is the new update of the [Augmented Reality application](#) of MinCienca (available on Google Play and App Store), which now, in addition to a series of Chilean prehistoric species, allows to visualize in 3D elements related to the Solar System, the brown dwarf "Kelu" discovered in 1987 by the national astronomer María Teresa Ruíz, the antennas of the ALMA observatory, a catalogue of protoplanetary disks, and the Magellan supernova.

Family day in Almagro Park and citizen experiment

Another outstanding activity is the family day that took place in the Almagro Park (San Ignacio with Mencía de los Nidos). On the occasion, astronomical observation exercises open to the public carried out; the talk "Dust grains, the origin of the planets" by Dr. Laura Pérez, and the presentation of the book funded by Public Science "What if we are aliens?".

Further information: [News \(minciencia.gob.cl\)](https://www.minciencia.gob.cl)

Chile wins international award for the development of analytical tools against the pandemic

The [Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences](#) (INFORMS), the largest association of decision and data sciences, awarded Chile the 2022 [Franz Edelman Award](#) for its achievements in advanced analysis, operations research and administrative science to improve the country's response to the pandemic.

The award ceremony was held on Monday, April 4 in Houston, Texas, which was attended by a large Chilean delegation composed of representatives of the different institutions responsible for these fundamental analytical tools to face the health crisis in the country.

A **platform to monitor the mobility of the population during quarantines**, a system to **optimize the active search for asymptomatic cases in critical areas**, a program to **monitor the antibody response to the different vaccines against COVID-19** and a methodology to **guide the allocation of patients between hospitals nationwide**. These are the innovative solutions developed by researchers from the [Complex Engineering Systems Institute](#), ISCI, and the [University of Chile](#), in collaboration with the [Ministry of Health](#), the [Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation](#), and [Entel](#), who were distinguished.

Savings **over \$200 million**, more than **65,000 infections prevented** and at least **2,800 deaths that did not occur**. This is part of the impact of the applications developed by researchers from the **Centro ANID Institute of Complex Engineering Systems, ISCI**, and other institutions. These solutions, fundamental to face the health crisis caused by COVID-19, were **distinguished with the INFORMS Edelman Award 2022**, an instance that rewards the best applied engineering intervention in the world and that this year also had among its finalists Alibaba, US Census Bureau, General Motors, Janssen and Merck.

Further information: [Chile wins international award for the development of analytical tools against the pandemic | ANID](#)

LATEST NEWS

LAC AND

EUROPEAN UNION

LATEST NEWS

LAC AND

EUROPEAN UNION

Minciencias installed the first session of the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (CONACTI)

For the first time in Colombia, the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (CONACTI) was formed, whose main function is to advise and recommend to the National Government and the National System of Science, Technology and Innovation the state policies on CTel. This Council was conceived as an instance of strategic thinking of the National System of Science, Technology and Innovation-SNCTI, to advise and guide in the design of activities in the sector to promote sustainable development and the consolidation of the knowledge society.

15 members make up CONACTI, including representatives of the National Government, headed by the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, rectors of public and private universities, researchers and representatives of the productive sector, who have a voice and vote in policies in the sector. These representatives are appointed for a period of two years and the appointment previously made to a member may be extended for up to one period.

The formation of this Council has a preponderant role for the country, since it has an important team that integrates academia, business, state and civil society, which not only has the mission of recommending and proposing guidelines around the State policy of Science, Technology and Innovation, but also will contribute to sustainable development, the transfer of knowledge and technology, the promotion of basic sciences, the social appropriation of knowledge and social innovation in the country.

Further information: [Minciencias installed the first session of the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy \(CONACTI\) | Minciencias](#)

Call for Stays with Business Purpose

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, opened the call "Stays with Business Purpose", which seeks to promote the linking of young researchers and innovators and doctors in the realization of short postdoctoral stays of research and/or innovation.

With this call, the relations between academia and Colombian companies are strengthened, through the realization of research projects of mutual interest for the development of new technologies, products and processes that contribute to raising the capacities of Research, Development and Innovation (R+D+i).

Postdoctoral stays with a business purpose will be carried out by linking a doctor in the company of a young researcher and innovator, for a period of five months. For young people, Minciencias will finance 100% of the scholarship for a value of \$10,000,000, divided into two million per month. For the doctors, the amount of funding will be \$40,000,000, divided into eight million per month.

The call is aimed at actors of the National CTel System, entities of the National Government or Higher Education Institutions (IES), which have categorized researchers and who, in addition, have the endorsement of a company for the development of a short postdoctoral stay of research and/or innovation that contributes to the strengthening of technologies, products or processes.

Further information: [Call for stays with business purpose | Call 917 | Minciencias](#)

COLOMBIA



LATEST NEWS

LAC AND

EUROPEAN UNION

COLOMBIA

Smart connections, patents and advances in Science, Technology and Innovation

The Regional Commission for Competitiveness and Innovation of the Atlantic -CRCIA event held at the Prado de Cajacopi headquarters, included presentations and discussions in which topics such as the importance of patents, Colombia's challenges in terms of CTel and efforts to close gaps and achieve the articulation of key sectors to continue advancing towards a knowledge society stood out.

The event was held in Barranquilla and was attended by representatives of different organizations in the atlantic science and innovation sector. The importance of patents, projection of the CTel in the department, challenges at the national level and calls and investments, were the main themes of the space.

Further information: [Smart connections, patents and advances in Science, Technology and Innovation | Minciencias](#)

URUGUAY

International Cooperation, Institutional Alliances and Strategic Partners: ANII's Commitment to Enhance the Country's Capacities

ANII has strengthened its ties of regional cooperation through an agreement with the International Development Research Council (IDRC) that seeks to stimulate research and development in Latin America on common strategic issues and lay the foundations

for a cooperation network of funding agencies. In 2021 a first regional call for projects on artificial intelligence was made, in conjunction with the Research Support Foundation of the State of São Paulo (FAPESP) and the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research of Argentina (CONICET).

Likewise, regional cooperation continued to be strengthened through the AMSUD programs, which promote the development of projects between Latin American and French research groups in areas such as climate change, information and communication technologies, and mathematics. At the end of 2021, ANII [hosted the annual meeting](#) of these programs, of which more than 470 people participated, and the meeting of the Board of Directors was attended by the main agencies of France and Latin America.

In terms of innovation, ANII supports national innovation through the financing of projects of consolidated companies and ventures with high economic, social and environmental impact. In 2021 the creation of the [Newlab Studio Uruguay](#) was announced, a collaboration between the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining (MIEM), LATU, the companies Globant and MercadoLibre, and the US organization Newlab. Over the next four years, Newlab Studios Uruguay will generate environments to test new technologies and business models on topics such as sustainable energy, urban mobility and the future of work.

In 2021, agreements were generated that allow the continuity of funds to support energy, health and digital education projects. In turn, two new funds were incorporated, to support projects [in the meat sector](#) (together with INAC) and [circular economy](#) projects (together with PAGE Uruguay, MIEM, UNIDO and IDB Lab).

Further information [ANII | Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación - Cooperación internacional, alianzas institucionales y socios estratégicos: la apuesta de ANII para potenciar las capacidades del país.](#)

LATEST NEWS

LAC AND

EUROPEAN UNION

Design of a Territorial Hub for the Central Region of Uruguay was Presented

In March, at the University Center of the Northeast (UdelaR), a first design proposal for the Hub was presented with the aim of forming a network of relevant actors for the creation of an Innovation Hub; within the framework of the Rapid Financing Facility (RFF) project, "Contributions to the socioeconomic recovery from COVID-19 using a portfolio approach for the Central region in Uruguay".

The UdelaR with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) carried out a study in order to characterize the territory, as well as delve into sectoral aspects related to the use of resources and socioeconomic development. This involved analysing the innovative productive ecosystem in the north-center-south corridor, the encounter between the supply and demand of knowledge and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in companies based in the territory.

The final report of this investigation was presented by its coordinators to the representatives of the institutions that participate in the creation process of the Hub.

Further information [here](#)

Call for Projects on Green Hydrogen

ANII, the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining (MIEM) and the Uruguayan Technological Laboratory (LATU) created the Green Hydrogen Sector Fund, with the aim of financing research, innovation and training projects in this area.

Through this call, financing and support is provided to the construction, production and use of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives. Its uses include: transport of heavy loads or buses, E-methanol, E-kerosene, green fertilizers, mixing with natural gas.

The call is open to different possibilities in regards to renewable energy source, scale and location. The minimum scale of the project will be 1.5 MW of power in the electrolyzer. The project can be considered as the initial phase of a expandable project in a next stage.

This call is administered under the modality of competition, in two stages: presentation of profiles and presentation of project. National legal entities may submit their proposals, as well as consortia of national and foreign legal entities of the private sector based in the country, with a proven background and experience in the installation and operation of electrolyzers of at least 1 MW of nominal power.

The support will be up to USD 10 million in the non-reimbursable financing modality, distributed within a period of 10 years from the start of operation. The maximum date for entry into operation will be December 2025. The call will be open from the 8th of April until the 24th of May 2022.

Further information [here](#).

URUGUAY



SCHOLARSHIPS

FUNDING

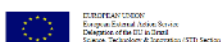
ANNOUNCEMENTS

EU PUBLIC CALLS

List of Horizon Europe Calls targeting LAC region

The Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Section of the Delegation of the EU in Brazil published an **Indicative List of calls of the 1st Work-Programme (2021-2022) of Horizon Europe with focus on International Cooperation, Brazil and Latin America** and is available [here](#).

Please note that this list is not intended to be exhaustive and does not engage the European Commission. The aim is to provide an indication of the calls where BR or LAC countries participation are desired or required. The Horizon Europe programme has an openness principle and many other calls are available on the [Funding&Tenders Portal](#).



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
European Research Infrastructure Service
Delegation of the EU in Brazil
Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Section

Indicative List of calls of the EU R&I programme, Horizon Europe with focus on International Cooperation, Brazil and Latin America
1st Work-Programme (2021-2022)

WP part	topic code with hyperlink	topic title	Type of action	Open and close	Int'l Coop?	Specific countries or regions targeted	References to international coop in topic's text
CLUSTERS	HORIZON-CIS-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-0101	Public policies and indicators for well-being and sustainable development	RIA	10/01/2022 20/04/2022	YES	Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America	Proposals should cover a broad range of European countries (also the regions depending where appropriate), as well as a sufficient number of non-European countries (e.g. from Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America) for ensuring an international character of the projects; the international cooperation is strongly encouraged.
CLUSTER	HORIZON-CIS-2022-0204-01	Digital solutions for shifting enterprises in international markets and creating value chains	RIA	16/07/2022 31/10/2022	YES (strong)	Mediterranean countries	The consortium must include as a beneficiary or lead one legal entity established in a Mediterranean Country, not being Member State or Associated Country.
CLUSTER	HORIZON-CIS-2022-0205-01	Joint international projects for setting up sustainable networks	RIA	01/09/2022 10/01/2023	YES	Mediterranean countries	International cooperation with Mediterranean countries is required.

AL-INVEST Verde- 1st Call for Proposals for Innovative Partnership Projects

AL-INVEST has been the European Union's (EU) flagship programme for SME promotion and support in Latin America (LA) over the last two decades. The Current Programme aims to promote economic growth alongside environmental sustainability by mobilising EU know-how and investment in support of green transition-related alliances with the private sector in LA.

This Call for Proposals aims at supporting innovative partnership projects between Latin American and European institutions and organisations. The following priorities will be pursued for this first call for proposals:

1. Sustainable, deforestation-free agri-food systems and value chains
2. Transition towards low carbon, resource efficient and circular business models

Deadline: 27 June 2022 (12:00 pm Brussels time)
Call Guidelines (for a quick information about the call): https://alinvest-verde.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AIV_CfP1_Guidelines_EN_final-1.pdf

For all other documentation: https://alinvest-verde.eu/documents_relevant-guidelines/
AL-INVEST Verde web-site: <https://alinvest-verde.eu/#programme>

Networking Platform for this Call: <https://alinvest-verde-1st-call.b2match.io/>

AL-INVEST Verde



AL-INVEST Verde promotes sustainable growth and jobs creation by supporting the transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and a more circular economy as well as sustainable agri-food value chains in Latin America

QUICK FACTS Component 1

Funded by	European Commission
Specific Objective	SMEs in Latin America adopt less polluting and more resource efficient products, processes and services while more sustainable consumption patterns are adopted by countries.
Budget	31.25 Mio. EUR (80% from EU)
Duration	01.12.2021 – 30.11.2025 (48 months)
Approach	Facilitation and management of sub-grants for projects of EU and LA partners. Provision of technical assistance, support transversal activities, networking and exchange.
Location	EU and Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela
Lead	sequa gmbH, Bonn, Germany
Project Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ AGEXPORT, GT ➔ CACB, BR ➔ CAINCO, BO ➔ Chamber of Lima, PE ➔ COPARMEX Jalisco, MX ➔ EUROCHAMBRES, BE

ENVISAGED OUTCOMES

Promote the green transition of Latin American SMEs and sustainable agri-food value chains.

Facilitate the use of more resource-efficient and low-carbon production models through innovation and digitalisation.

Indicators aimed at improving the competitiveness of SMEs through the adoption of sustainability practices to increase their employability, especially among young people and women.

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

AL-INVEST Verde wants to mobilise EU know-how and investment in support of building alliances with the private sector in LA.

For the twinning of innovative partnership projects between EU and LA 25 Mio. EUR are earmarked (including 20% own contribution).

Networking events and transversal activities will foster synergies and exchange.



Innovative Partnership Projects

- Contribute to the achievement of the objectives, results and indicators of the AL-INVEST Verde Programme
- Selected through open call for proposals (CfP)
- Projects submitted by LA and EU business organisations and institutions
- Duration between 20 and 30 months
- EU contribution between 250.000 and 300.000 EUR (maximum 80 % of the total budget)
- **Launch of 1st CfP: 28th of March 2022**
- Deadline for submission of proposals: 27th of June 2022
- Guidelines, application forms and relevant information can be downloaded at www.alinvest-verde.eu





SCHOLARSHIPS

FUNDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EU PUBLIC CALLS

Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowship

Attention, researchers from Brazil! The Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowship supports postdoctoral researchers and experienced researchers with their research in Germany.

In 2013, the Brazilian research funding organization Capes (Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior) and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation launched the Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowship Programme. As a fellow, you will benefit from individual support from the Humboldt Foundation and their diverse sponsorship portfolio.

What the program offer:

The Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowship allows you to conduct your own research at various stages of your career in collaboration with a host at a German research institution of your choice. Host institutes will generally receive a subsidy towards research costs.

Postdocs

Benefit from research sponsorship in Germany at the beginning of your academic career. The Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowship for Brazilian postdoctoral researchers enables you to conduct research in Germany. The monthly fellowship amount is €2,600. Fellowships may last from 6 to 24 months.

Experienced researchers

You can still apply for research sponsorship in Germany even if you are already well advanced in your academic career. The Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowship for experienced Brazilian researchers enables you to conduct research in Germany. The fellowship amount is €3,100. Fellowships may last from 6 to 18 months and can be divided into up to three stays within three years.

Deadlines:

The application deadline shall be 23:59 Brasilia time on the last working day in May or November respectively of the year preceding the planned research stay.

How to apply:

If you would like to apply for the Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowship, please submit the necessary documents online only to both the Humboldt Foundation and Capes.

You can find the [Capes](#) application documents and further information on the application process on the Capes website.

If you have any doubts or questions, please contact us (info@avh.de) before submitting your application. We are happy to help.

Further information: [Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowship - Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung \(humboldt-foundation.de\)](https://www.humboldt-foundation.de)



SCHOLARSHIPS

FUNDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EU PUBLIC CALLS

European Research Council – International Arrangement Funding

International Arrangement funding is available via national funding agencies. These can be national funding bodies or science ministries.

You can be of any age and work in any discipline as long as you are an early-career scientist supported by non-European funding agencies.

Conditions vary according to funding agency's requirements and the positions available in ERC research teams.

Currently the following Implementing Arrangements are in place for LAC countries:

Argentina

Signed in March 2015 with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation
Read more: agreement [ES](#) | [EN](#), [press highlight](#)
For the interested CONICET-funded scientists, see more [here](#)

Brazil

Signed in October 2016 with the Brazilian National Council of the State funding agencies (CONFAP)
Read more: agreement [EN](#), [press highlight](#), [leaflet](#)

Mexico

Signed in November 2015 with the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (Conacyt)

Read more: agreement [ES](#) | [EN](#), [press highlight](#)

How to apply:

Positions in ERC-funded projects are available following ERC [calls for Principal Investigators \(PIs\) to express an interest](#) in hosting early-career scientists supported by non-European funding agencies. The ERC then sends each funding agency a listing of interested PIs or teams, with a description of their projects.

- Find out whether you are eligible for funding under one of the International Arrangements.
- **Apply directly to the relevant funding agency.**
- If you are accepted, it will tell you which opportunities are available.
- You can then **contact the PI offering a position** to express an interest in working in the research team.
- When you and the PI have agreed on the details, the Host Institution will send a 'letter of intent' or 'support letter' on behalf of the PI to your funding agency to apply for funding
- Your funding agency can then fund you to work on the project.

Each funding agency follows its own criteria and procedure for selecting scientists for funding under their Implementing Arrangement. The **ERC does not intervene in this selection.**

Calls normally take place in October each year. Main grants (Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants and Advanced Grants) and Synergy Grants that have at least 18 months until the end of the project are eligible.

Further information: [Additional opportunities | ERC: European Research Council \(europa.eu\)](#)



SCHOLARSHIPS

FUNDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EU PUBLIC CALLS

4th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI 2022

Call opening date: Monday, 24 January 2022

Call closing date: Thursday, 28 April 2022

The EU-LAC Interest Group towards the Common Research Area launched a new Joint Call to enhance bi-regional cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

The aim of the Joint Call is to initiate sustainable and multilateral research cooperation between researchers from Europe, Latin-America and the Caribbean countries. Transnational consortia are invited to submit proposals related to six topics in the thematic fields of Global Challenges, Health, Biodiversity, and Energy, which have been defined in collaboration with the EU funded projects [EU-LAC ResInfra](#), [EULAC PerMed](#) and [SINCERE](#). One of the specificities is the inclusion of four topics based on sharing large Research Infrastructures. Projects will be funded for up to 36 months.

The following funding agencies confirmed their participation:

- **Austria:** Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung, BMBWF
- **Bolivia:** Ministerio de Educación - Vice Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología, MINEDU
- **Brazil:** Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico, CNPq
- **Brazil:** Conselho Nacional das Fundações Estaduais de Amparo à Pesquisa, CONFAP
- **Dom. Rep.:** Ministerio de Educación Superior, Ciencia y Tecnología, MESCyT

- **Germany:** Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF
- **Italy:** Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, CNR
- **Panama:** Secretaria Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación, SENACYT
- **Peru:** Consejo Nacional de Ciencia Tecnología e Innovación Tecnológica, CONCYTEC
- **Poland:** Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju, NCBR
- **Portugal:** Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, FCT
- **Spain:** Instituto de Salud Carlos III
- **Spain:** Agencia Estatal de Investigación, AEI
- **Turkey:** Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu, TÜBİTAK
- **Uruguay:** Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación, ANII

Europe - Latin American & Caribbean RTI Networking & Matchmaking Platform

Applicants searching for potential EU and/or Latin American & Caribbean project partners are invited to register for free at the online [ENRICH in LAC Matchmaking platform](#).

Please find all call information at: <https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-call/4th-eu-lac-joint-call-sti-2022>

For further information, please look up to [page 17](#) or contact: Anneken.Reise@dlr.de



ENRICH GLOBAL TO SUPPORT UKRAINIAN INNOVATION CONSULTANTS

The ENRICH GLOBAL Desk convened at an Extraordinary Meeting on Friday 11th March to discuss and approve a new ENRICH GLOBAL action to support **Ukrainian innovation consultants**. Many citizens and organisations in Europe are generously supporting charities with cash donations to help Ukrainian families with clothes, food and medical supplies. Members of ENRICH GLOBAL are in contact with Ukrainian colleagues from the “global innovation family” who have now relocated to other countries, leaving everything behind them. Our Ukrainian colleagues are starting again in other European cities and are desperately looking for work and trying to rebuild their careers. ENRICH GLOBAL is **committed to help these professionals** find work via new connections and opportunities. As a first action, ENRICH GLOBAL has agreed to launch a **campaign to raise cash funds** with the specific purpose of supporting Ukrainian innovation consultants (several are already known to us) by offering them short term consultancy contracts. The idea is that donors would fund “innovation consultant expert days” at a nominal value of €500 each. Their donation for these “**innovation consultant expert days**” will be collected by ENRICH GLOBAL and then transferred to Ukrainian innovation consultants in the form of service contracts for consultancy work, in particular, to develop and expand this activity and ENRICH GLOBAL. More details coming soon – in the meantime, **if you can help, please contact robert.sanders@ebn.eu**

ENRICH IN AFRICA

ENRICH in Africa (EBN, SPI) series of conferences on entrepreneurship and innovation to accelerate the SDGs

ENRICH in Africa is organising a **series of conferences on entrepreneurship and innovation** to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conferences will be held every three months, between **March 2022 and December 2023**. Throughout this series of conferences, the EiA team and its champions will be discussing with inspirational people from the African and European innovation scenes. They want EiA Champions and stakeholders to **feel inspired and backed up by those that have taken a step further** on how they see the potential of innovation and entrepreneurship to build a better world. The first session already took place and had ‘cross-continental and cross-sector partnerships as a main topic’ and speakers from ACEN Ghana, Footprints Africa and Africa Hub – Coventry University took part in the event. The upcoming sessions will discuss topics such as **innovation and entrepreneurship driven by needs, financing SDG-driven entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship led by youth, fairer business models**, among others. To receive further information on each episode and register to attend fill in [this form](#).



EU-INDIA INNOCENTER

EXPLORATION PROGRAMME

The next FREE Exploration Programme will happen between **May and June 2022** on the topic of **Sustainability – Green India**

WHAT YOU GET?

DEEP-DIVE: A **hands-on experience** in India to learn more about its market, business culture, and your sector-specific environment.

CONNECTIONS: Meet stakeholders, business mentors, and potential partners to **support your market entry**.

VALIDATION: Get the necessary insights to find your **product/market-fit in India** and how to localize your solution to maximize your efforts.

CUSTOMISATION: A customized agenda to support your company with **market insights from experts**, fellow founders, decision makers based on your business's priorities.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

European tech start-ups and scale-ups with a strong interest in entering India, with knowledge that India is a suitable market for their business or are possibly already active in India but struggle with aspects of their journey.

Speak to their experts to discuss your opportunities. [APPLY NOW!](#)

ENRICH IN CHINA

APRE, ATC, G.A.C.: IDIH Podcast #4 about China and the gender dimension in R&I and Ageing

IDIH Podcast #4: The one on China and the gender dimension in R&I and Ageing is now available! This episode will explore the **R&I landscape in China around Digital Health and Ageing**, especially thanks to the testimonies of Dr Huiyao Huang, from the Clinical Trial Center, National Cancer Centre of China, and Dr Timo Strohäker, coordinator of the SENET project, enhancing EU-China collaboration on Health. Moreover, this episode will dedicate a special session to the **analysis of the gender dimension in Research and the ageing population**, thanks to a special guest, Dr Peggy Maguire, Political Scientist and the Director-General of the European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH). A final outlook on R&I on digital health and ageing will be provided by Dr Francesco Giuliani, involved in the Eu project GATEKEEPER.

Listen to The one on China and the gender dimension in R&I and Ageing for free [here](#).



APRIL 6 - 8, 2022

ENRICH IN LAC TWINNING PROGRAMME

1ST SESSION 2022

ENRICH in LAC's 1st session of the Twinning Programme 2022 took place online, between April 6th and 8th. During the three days of the event, participants had the opportunity to learn from experts on internationalization and EU-LAC Cooperation and participate in matchmaking sessions.

The first day of the event counted with 42 participants, who cherished the lessons shared by the speakers:

- ❖ Filipe Cassapo, president of ENRICH in LAC, who explored the innovation ecosystem in Brazil and main global challenges nowadays;
- ❖ Cláudia Kamel, (Oswaldo Cruz Foundation), who shared their experience in partnering with Europe as a Latin American institution, and how ENRICH in LAC took part in the process;
- ❖ Maite Irazábal, NCP for the Uruguayan Agency of International Cooperation, talking about the bureaucracy behind the internationalization process and ways to cope with it;
- ❖ Francisco Rocha, (Sociedade Portuguesa de

Inovação), who addressed the ways to financing through international development banks and agencies;

- ❖ Raquel Almeida, International consultant at SPI, who explored financing opportunities in the framework of Horizon Europe and other European funded projects;
- ❖ Katrin Singer, coordinator of ENRICH in LAC (Fraunhofer), who explained the benefits of joining the network and the process to do it.

The second day of the event integrated 23 participants in a matchmaking session involving both breakout rooms on zoom, as well as one-to-one sessions in B2Match platform. Lastly, the third day was exclusive for members, in which tailored consulting services were offered by the Tech Park of São José dos Campos.

The recordings of this first session are available for members of ENRICH in LAC. Two more sessions of the Twinning Programme will take place by the end of 2022, foreseen to be held live.

The opportunities are worldwide

Soft Landing Hubs Twinning Programme

First session
FIND YOUR MATCH

Be part of our network and enjoy the benefits of being in contact with the best clusters, incubators and tech parks in Europe and Latin America.

Landing on April 2022

Online event **FREE** of charge

ENRICH
EUROPEAN NETWORK OF
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
CENTRES AND HUBS
LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

ENRICH IN LAC

PRIORITY TOPIC:

BIOECONOMY



By Verena Furtado, SPI

THE CONCEPT OF BIOECONOMY

The bioeconomy emerged as an alternative to sustainable economic activity, due to the process of human evolution and the discovery of the finitude of natural resources. The human being, thinking more and more about such limitation, has been looking for sustainable alternatives that do not harm nature. Bioeconomy, in its broadest concept, seeks directly to transform knowledge into sustainable industrial development in areas related to the management and use of biological resources.

Another concept of bioeconomy available in the literature is from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which defines it as a world where biotechnology contributes an important part of economic production (OECD, 2009). Over the years, the view on the bioeconomy has been changing, due to technological advances or innovations that are closely linked to the area of biotechnology. For the European Commission (2012), the bioeconomy involves three elements: knowledge of renewable biomass, biotechnology and, finally, the combination of the first two elements, thus forming the last element.

In this context, bioeconomy is primarily based on the solution of contemporary problems such as meeting the demands arising from population growth and climate change, health, replacement of fossil energy, among others.

BIOECONOMY IN INDUSTRIES: ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS AND THE USE OF HEMP

Originally a Central Asian plant, hemp cultivation played an important role in ancient times in China for the production of clothing, rope, paper, oil, etc. Given its botanical characteristics and scientific-technological advances, hemp has been converted into several products used in different industries. The global hemp market consists of over 25,000 products in nine submarkets, namely agriculture, textiles, recycling, automotive, furniture, food and beverage, paper, building materials, and personal care (Johnson, 2018). Currently, hemp is already perceived as a promising solution for synthetic-based economies.

Currently, there is a worldwide need for innovations aimed at meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, by using less non-renewable natural resources,

generating a more circular economy, reducing the ecological footprint, among others. The applications of hemp are numerous from concrete technology, its use as food, automotive industry through biofuels, hemp seed for its nutritional potential, hemp paper, textile industry, essential oils, cosmetic products and plastic replacement. It is estimated that the demand for this plant, and consequently for products based on hemp, globally will grow robustly and that hemp will once again acquire value as a promising raw material, also becoming the symbol of sustainable agriculture. Consequently, leading countries will have the opportunity for economic growth while reducing their negative ecological impacts.

BIOECONOMY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In this scenario, in which the bioeconomy gains more and more relevance, it is possible to identify that the countries have increasingly sought to fit in and improve their capacities towards these new needs and patterns of sustainable development. From this, general views on this theme were identified in the region of Latin America and

the Caribbean, which can be based on 4 fundamental pillars (see Table below) pointed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), organization founded by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

In line with these objectives, there are also organizations in these regions that aim to support the development of policies, research, innovation, dissemination of knowledge and development of capacities relevant to supporting the bioeconomic initiatives in the region. Highlighting the following organizations:

- ❖ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- ❖ International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- ❖ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- ❖ Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- ❖ The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB),
- ❖ the Latin American Development Bank (CAF) and
- ❖ the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI).

Pillar 1	Pillar 2	Pillar 3	Pillar 4
Agenda 2030 as a basis for promoting sustainable development.	Paris Agreement as a guideline for promoting climate action.	Reduction of territorial development gaps within countries by promoting social inclusion.	Diversify economies and generate new value chains by promoting innovative processes that contribute to regional development.

References

- European Commission (2019) [Hemp](#).
- Johnson, R. (2018). [Hemp as an Agricultural Commodity](#). Congressional Research Service.
- Organização de Cooperação e Desenvolvimento Econômico -OCDE (2009) The Bioeconomy to 2030: Designing a policy agenda. Paris, France, White House. National Bioeconomy Blueprint. White House, Washington, DC, USA.
- European Commission (2012) [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Strategy for Innovating for sustainable grow: A bioeconomy for Europe](#).
- Rodríguez, Adrián G. (Editor) (2018). Bioeconomía en América Latina y el Caribe 2018. Memoria del Seminario Regional realizado en Santiago de Chile, 24 y 25 de enero 2018, Serie Seminarios y Conferencias No. 89, LC/TS.2018/87, CEPAL, Santiago, Chile.
- Rodríguez, Adrián; Aramendis, Rafael; y Mondaini, Andrés (2018). Financiamiento de la bioeconomía en países seleccionados de Europa, Asia y África: Experiencias relevantes para América Latina y el Caribe. Serie Desarrollo Productivo No. 222, LC/TS.2018/101, CEPAL, Santiago, Chile.
- Rodríguez, Adrián; Mondaini, Andrés; y Hitschfeld, Maureen (2017). Bioeconomía en América Latina y el Caribe. Contexto global y regional y perspectivas. Serie Desarrollo Productivo No. 215, LC/TS.2017/96, CEPAL, Santiago, Chile.

COUNTRY PROFILE

EU & LAC REGION: SWEDEN



Sweden is one of the world's most innovative and research-intensive nations. Sweden has been present in LAC through the Swedish-Brazilian Research and Innovation Centre (CISB) and through the Office of Science and Innovation in Brasília.



By Luize Ferreira de Albuquerque & Maria Kretschmer, Fraunhofer IPK

Sweden has a strong demand for the new, disruptive technologies that improve productivity and connectivity, including digital solutions, cybersecurity and services that lower production costs and increase efficiency. Sweden's commitment to sustainability across industry sectors drives market demand for products and services in renewable energy, low/zero carbon, green technologies and energy efficiency ([International Trade Administration](#)).

This can entail further opportunities to build synergies on the fields of research and innovation with Latin America. In the past, Sweden's relationship with LAC has mostly been related to humanitarian aid and development through [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency](#) (SIDA) with less significant commercial trades and innovation partnerships. However, Sweden recognizes the region's potential and is working to strengthen their relationship with Latin America.

In this regard, *Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs* has implemented a 5-year strategy plan for regional development cooperation with Latin America. The strategy applies in 2021–2025 and comprise a total of SEK 1 billion for activities implemented by the *SIDA*. Sweden's development cooperation will address the

region's cross-border challenges and contribute to sustainable development based on the *2030 Agenda*, the financing for development commitments in the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* and the *Paris Agreement*. The goal is to strengthen regional actors and regional solutions, and to strengthen capacity for regional cooperation. Activities will contribute to the following objectives: human rights, democracy, the rule of law and gender equality; environment, climate and sustainable use of natural resources; migration and development ([Strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation with Latin America 2021–2025](#)).

Sweden represents a great innovation partner for LAC as it has a long-established tradition of expertise in manufacturing and engineering, mining, shipbuilding, and the life sciences. In addition, it has a highly receptive market to new advanced technologies ([International Trade Administration](#)).

With a GDP of \$537 billion (2020) and a population of 10.4 million, Sweden is the largest Nordic economy and boasts a transparent, highly developed, sophisticated and diversified market. Sweden also consistently ranks among the top 10 worldwide for its connectivity, governance, investment in R&D, and business climate ([International Trade Administration](#)).

Sweden ranks 3rd of 27 EU Member States in the 2021 edition of the *Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)*. Although Sweden has a relatively small population, its strongest competitive advantages is human capital (ranking 2nd in the EU). In 1842 the country introduced compulsory schooling for 7- to 13-year-olds (today for 6- to 15-year-olds). This was a game-changing move, as it raised the overall level of education among the people. Sweden's long-term focus on education and research became a vital component in Sweden's journey from poor agricultural nation to prosperous innovation leader ([Education and Research in Sweden](#)).

Today, 72% of the population has at least basic digital skills and 46% has above basic digital skills. Sweden was also among the 6 main EU contributors in terms of R&D expenditure by business enterprises in the ICT sector in 2018. A trend that goes hand-in-hand with the EU funding for ICT projects under *Horizon 2020*. However, more action is needed to increase the pool of digital experts. Estimates indicate that the country will have a shortage of 70,000 ICT specialists by 2024 (DESI).

Another key aspect to Sweden's economic development is that it has not participated in any war for two centuries. Sweden maintained an armed neutrality in both World Wars and, since then, the country has pursued a successful economic formula consisting of a capitalist system intermixed with substantial welfare elements. Sweden joined the EU in 1995, but the public rejected the introduction of the euro in a 2003 referendum ([The World Factbook](#)).

The most important sectors of Sweden's economy in 2020 were public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities (21.6%), industry (17.1%) and wholesale and retail trade, transport, accommodation and food services (16.6%). Intra-EU trade accounts for 52% of Sweden's exports (Germany 11%, Denmark 8% and Finland 7%), while outside the EU 11% go to Norway and 8% to the United States. In terms of imports, 68% come from EU countries (Germany 18%, the Netherlands 10% and Denmark 7%), while outside the EU 9% come

from Norway and 6% from China ([European Union: Country Profile Sweden](#)).

Economic Forecast

Based on recent GDP growth figures and other economic indicators, economic analysts now assess that Sweden's economy is on track to reach pre-pandemic levels by mid-2022. Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson recently revised 2021 GDP growth estimates upwards from 3.2 percent to 4.7 percent ([International Trade Administration](#)).

According to [The Economist](#), real GDP growth, driven by consumer spending, will remain strong relative to the pre-pandemic five-year average. GDP expenditure on the imports in goods and services is predicted to increase by 2023. Sweden's public finances will remain in a relatively strong position compared with the euro area average. They also expect a centre-right government to replace the existing centre-left minority administration after the 2022 election. Policymaking will remain prudent and the business environment one of the best in the world. Russia's invasion of Ukraine implies heightened macroeconomic risks for Sweden. The risk of above-target inflation for a protracted period has increased.

Sweden's Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Landscape

Sweden is one of the world's most innovative and research-intensive nations. The *Global Innovation Index 2021* ranked Sweden 2nd most innovative economy in the world. The country has been in the top three for more than a decade alongside Switzerland.

Nearly four percent of Sweden's GDP goes towards research and development, one of the highest rates in the world. As a result, Sweden has a leading position in areas like environmental technology, life science, ICT and nanotechnology. The bulk of the research taking place in Sweden — about 70% — is financed by the business sector ([EURAXESS SWEDEN](#)). The State and the business sector collaborate through 'industrial research institutes', which they fund jointly. These institutes are

independent of the higher education system but often work closely with universities and other higher education institutions ([EURAXESS SWEDEN](#)).

For instance, government agency [Vinnova](#) plays a central part in Swedish research. The innovation agency promotes and funds research projects in a wide range of fields, from health and transport to industrial material and smart cities. The [Knowledge Foundation \(KK-stiftelsen\)](#) funds research and competence development at Sweden's university colleges and new universities. And the [Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth \(Tillväxtverket\)](#) also strengthens competitiveness and facilitates entrepreneurship around Sweden ([Education and Research in Sweden](#)).

Finally, green technology and life sciences are two fields in which Swedish researchers and companies excel. Thus, the government has created an office of life sciences dedicated to developing a national strategy for the life sciences to further promote the field. The three life sciences research hubs are:

- ❖ [H2 Healthhub](#)
- ❖ [SciLifeLab](#)
- ❖ [Testa Center](#)

National Science Technology and Innovation priorities

In 2020, the *Swedish Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications* established the [Swedish Innovation Strategy](#) in order to meet societal challenges, increase competitiveness and create more jobs in a global knowledge economy, deliver public services with increase quality and efficiency. The strategy aims to tackle the following societal challenges:

- ❖ Health, demographic change and wellbeing;
- ❖ Challenges for European bioeconomy: Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research;
- ❖ Secure, clean and efficient energy;
- ❖ Smart, green and integrated transport;
- ❖ Climate action, resource efficiency and raw

materials.

- ❖ Secure societies: Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens.

The Swedish government has also created *Innovation Partnership Programmes*. The programmes' goal is to identify innovative solutions to major challenges facing society and to contribute to Sweden's competitiveness. The themes of the four *Innovation Partnership Programmes* for 2019–2022 are based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and part of the January Agreement, the policy agreement made by the government parties with the Centre Party and Liberal Party. They build on the strengths of Sweden and Swedish industry and areas judged to be of great importance for future growth ([Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation](#)):

- ❖ Climate neutral industry
- ❖ Skills supply and lifelong learning
- ❖ Digital transformation of industry;
- ❖ Health and life science

These four *Innovation Partnership Programmes* bring together small and large companies, universities and higher education institutions, civil society and public sector actors to jointly set priorities for what needs to be done to meet the challenges within the four themes. In the scope of these programmes Sweden has placed Offices of Science and Innovation in six of their embassies, one of them being located in Brasília, Brazil ([Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation](#)).

The two countries have been partnering in the innovation field for more than a decade through [Swedish-Brazilian Research and Innovation Centre](#) (*Centro de Pesquisa e Inovação Sueco-Brasileiro - CISB*) and the *Sweden Brazil Innovation Weeks* event. For 2022, matchmaking activities between Swedish start-ups and Brazilian companies, delegation visits, webinars in the areas of cooperation are already programmed. Besides this, calls are being planned and some are already confirmed as the Staff exchange for applied AI-research of *Vinnova* and the call between [CNPq-CISB-SAAB](#) ([Sweden Brazil Innovation Initiative](#)).



Previous contribution in Horizon 2020

In total 5.170 Spanish organisations were involved in *Horizon 2020* projects with a total of 2,31B Euro funding received by the project's participants. Structured by thematic priority, projects were conducted mainly within the frame of ([Horizon 2020 Dashboards](#), state of March 2022):

- ❖ Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (884 participations)
- ❖ Smart, green and integrated transport (620 participations)
- ❖ Information and Communication on Technologies (495 participations)
- ❖ Health, demographic change and wellbeing (486 participations)
- ❖ Secure, clean and efficient energy (394 participations)
- ❖ European Research Council (310 participation)
- ❖ Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials (309 participations)
- ❖ Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research (276 participations)
- ❖ Research Infrastructure (253 participations)
- ❖ Innovation in SMEs (217 participations)
- ❖ Future and Emerging Technologies (189 participations)
- ❖ Advanced manufacturing and processing (110 participations)
- ❖ Europe in a changing world-inclusive, innovative and reflective societies (106 participations)
- ❖ Secure societies -Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens (99 participations)
- ❖ Advanced materials (87 participations)
- ❖ Euratom (70 participations)
- ❖ Space (53 participations)
- ❖ Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials and Production (43 participations)
- ❖ Cross-theme (28 participations)
- ❖ Twinning of research institutions (28 participations)
- ❖ Biotechnology (26 participations)
- ❖ Science with and for Society – Cross-theme (16 participation)
- ❖ Teaming of excellent research institutions and low performing RDI regions (15 participants)
- ❖ Encourage citizens to engage in science (12 participants)
- ❖ Integrate society in science and innovation (12 participations)
- ❖ Promote gender equality in research and innovation (11 participation)

- ❖ Make scientific and technological careers attractive for young people (7 participations)
- ❖ Develop the governance for the advancement of responsible research and innovation (6 participations)
- ❖ Societal Challenges – Cross-theme (4 participation)
- ❖ Spreading excellence and widening participation – Cross-theme (2 participations)
- ❖ Improve knowledge on science communication (1 participants)
- ❖ Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies (1 participants)

The three major organisations in terms of received funding were the *KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET* (197,59M Euro), *LUNDS UNIVERSITET* (189,04M Euro) and *KUNGLIGA TEKNISKA HOEGSKOLAN* (181,23M Euro). The main collaboration links with LAC Countries of the Collaborative Country Group ‘Other Countries which get Automatic Funding’ are Argentina with 68 collaborations, Chile with 46 collaborations and Colombia with 43 collaborations ([Horizon 2020 Dashboards](#), state of March 2022).

Regarding Sweden’s SME Performance regarding *Horizon 2020*, 6.338 SME applied for H2020 project from which 851 SMEs were actually involved with a total net EU contribution of 351,8M Euro funding received ([Horizon 2020 Dashboards](#), state of March 2022).

Funding opportunities in Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the biggest EU research and innovation programme ever with €95.5 billion of funding available over 7 years (2021 to 2027). It is open to the world. This means that participants from all over the world can participate in most calls. In many cases, the EU will fund at least partly the participation of the international partners. As a member state of the EU, participants from Sweden are automatically eligible for EU funding, unless specific limitations or conditions are laid down in the work programme and/or call/topic text. Most LAC countries are also eligible for EU funding as per the Horizon Europe participation rules. The [list of eligible countries](#) can be consulted in the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

