



# **Scientific and Technological Cooperation between EC and Argentina**

## **Road Map 2011/2012**

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## Introduction

Engaging in Science and Technology through increased research efforts is important both for the European Union (EU) and Argentina to achieve economic development and competitiveness in a sustainable way and to improve social welfare, especially if links are strengthened with various forms of innovation at the same time

Research cooperation between the EU and Argentina dates back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Framework Programme (1990-1994). In 1999 both parties signed a Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement in order to strengthen cooperation and extending it in areas of mutual interest. This agreement proposes facilitating Argentina's interaction with the European Research Area. Argentina also has bilateral S&T agreements with several EU Member States involving joint research, institutional cooperation, students and researcher's mobility, and initiatives for sharing the use of research infrastructure.

The sixth meeting of the EC-Argentina Steering Committee took place in two parts, on May 31<sup>st</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011, both by video-conference. The meeting offered the opportunity for assessing the progress in S&T cooperation since the previous meeting in 2010, and particularly since the new phase of the ABEST II project, the Liaison Office with the European Community, started up its work. The sixth Steering Committee involved thematic directorates and others Units of the European Commission and Argentinean Thematic NCPs, which allowed discussing about research opportunities during the first part, and involved exchanges on research and innovation policies and programmes during the second part. The results and implications of the evaluation of the last five years of the S&T Cooperation Agreement implementation were also discussed in view of its tacit renewal according to Art. 11 of the Agreement. In the discussions, emphasis was also placed on making use of existing instruments and combine bilateral with regional cooperation and S&T policy dialogue and practice.

The operational outcome of the Steering Committee is reflected in this Roadmap, which is to be considered as a rolling agenda for the further cooperation between the EU and Argentina, aiming to increase Argentina's participation in the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013), further the dialogue with the European Research Area, develop wider S&T&I cooperation in bilateral and multilateral settings and facilitate the launching of the Pilot Activities conceived in the last EU-LAC R&I Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) that took place on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 2011, in order to implement the ALCUE Joint Initiative on Research & Innovation agreed in the Madrid Action Plan.

In addition to the next steering committee meeting scheduled tentatively for May 2012, other key elements for cooperation in 2011/2012 can be summarised as follows:

- **Bi-regional cooperation:** Argentina will continue with active support of the co-chairs, co-lead the working group on 'Bio-economy including food security' and participate in Energy and Finance WGs. It supports neighbour Uruguay in bilateral and biregional cooperation through a bilateral cooperation arrangement with ABEST II. It will also participate in the information event by video-conference with

20 LA countries on 2012 WPs.

- **Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology:** twinning will be expanded to new projects, a summer school is scheduled in October 2011, and synergies with the new phase of BiotecSur and European Technology Platforms will continue to be developed in addition to work in several new projects.
- **Environment:** New projects will start through 2011 and upon publication, the 2012 work programme will be disseminated. An Info Day in Buenos Aires will introduce the new Call, inviting scientists, SMEs, stake holders and decision makers.
- **ICT:** Areas of mutual interest are Software Engineering; Signals; Image Technologies; Embedded Software; Micro and Nanoelectronics. The application areas are: Industry; Agriculture; Government; Services; Contents; and Security. The transversal areas are: Education and Human Capital; Innovation and I+D; and Diaspora. That might evolve as a result of the update of Argentina's ICT White Book.

An ICT Forum Day will be organised on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 at MINCYT in a format already used by the FORESTA project on 9 June 2011. The participation of Argentinean organisations is expected to be further facilitated by the continuation of RedCLARA and GEANT. A new line of support has been launched by MINCYT: FONSOFT and FONTAR for grants to SMEs within cooperation agreements. Ongoing and new projects will strengthen cooperation. More emphasis will be placed on raising the visibility of Argentina in Europe to enable continued growth of cooperation.

- **Nanoscience, Nanotechnology, Material Science and Industrial Technologies:** This area shows particular complementarity between activities within FP7, ERANET supported collaborations and capacity building of SMEs through technical and financial cooperation.
- **Energy:** Areas for joint S&T cooperation should primarily be conducted at regional level and bi-lateral collaboration investigated where it represents the most feasible avenue for cooperation. SET Plan priorities that could be of interest to Argentina could be bioenergy carriers, design tool development for offshore wind farms or low medium temperature solar thermal systems for heat. Hydrogen could also be of mutual interest.
- **Health:** The Argentinean Health NCP will participate in the National Contact Point network with multiple activities and also organise info-events in different cities, as well as engage in the development of a specific Latin American NCP HEALTH Network for joint agenda setting. In the context of stepping up ethics reviews and analyses, Argentinean ethics experts will be invited to a conference in Brussels, currently in the planning stage. It is also planned to organise a Health & ICT SMEs event in Europe during 2012.

- **Transport:** Further cooperation in the field of urban intermodal transport systems (ITS) is envisaged with LAC countries, incl. Argentina. Two topics in the 2012 work programme explicitly mention cooperation with Latin America: flight physics and environmentally friendly airports.
- **Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH):** Organisation of Information Meetings with the Argentinean researchers from the Socio-Economic Science and Humanities Area in September 2011 especially since the new WP combines two years (2012 and 2013) mutual interest is expected in several areas. This could be combined with an on-going project's brokerage. Involvement of Argentinean ethics experts in the health area is also planned.
- **Marie Curie Actions:** The 2012 People Work Programme will again bring several possibilities of cooperation between Europe and Argentina. Argentinean organisations will be able to participate in research networks through the staff exchange (IRSES), Initial Training Networks (ITN), Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP) and to host European researchers with the International Outgoing Fellowship (IOF) action. Argentinean researchers will also be able to participate also in the individual actions, namely International Incoming Fellowships (IIF) and Career Integration Grants (CIG). Their participation in co-funded national programmes via the COFUND action and other mechanisms will also be possible. Promotional activities for the opportunities were agreed together with increasing awareness of the European Mobility Portal – EURAXESS.
- **Capacities Programme** and related activities. Four collaborations are on-going in the Science and Society Programme, while SME support activities are being developed with active involvement of the SME NCP. The ABEST II BILAT project lends effective support across all areas and supports also synergies with the bilateral, regional and bi-regional levels and encourages complementarities in action between different cooperation instruments.

## Facilitating Cooperation

The Agreement was up for renewal for another five year period in 2011. An evaluation was carried out between October 2010 and May 2011, including a visit by the review team in Buenos Aires between February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup>. The results of the review are reflected in the draft final report that was available for comments by 24 April and finalised end May 2011.

Exchanging information data and carrying out joint analyses on the research cooperation between the EC and Argentina encouraged more cooperation between European and Argentinean teams across different instruments as well as facilitate Argentina's participation in the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP7). In this context, it was agreed:

- The EC will provide, on a regular basis, information and data about the number of proposals submitted by Argentina and the number of proposals evaluated and retained for grant agreement per programme, thematic area and, if possible, per instrument (in particular the SICAs), according to the rules of confidentiality of the FPs.
- Argentina will improve the compilation of project information received by FP7 NCPs, such as INCO, Mobility, SMEs and Cooperation Programme thematic areas.
- Both Argentina and the EC engage in priority setting, using the proper participatory approach (bi-regional and bilateral policy dialogue, workshops, identification of regional priorities, identifying themes of specific mutual interest) for collaborative research activities as well as for initiatives related to research infrastructures.
- Argentina continues playing an important role promoting further S&T Regional Cooperation and helping to mobilise Latin American countries without S&T cooperation agreement with the EC, particularly in the context of the EULARINET Project and the implementation of the EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation endorsed in the EU-LAC Madrid Summit Declaration and Action Plan.
- During the last EU-LAC R&I Senior Officials Meeting of March 2011, it was decided to launch Pilot Activities on Bioeconomy (including Food Security), Biodiversity and Climate Change, ICT and Energy. These activities will identify objectives and indicators for their implementation.
- The EULARINET project is a useful instrument promoting the joint definition in S&T co-operation policies by supporting bi-regional policy dialogue. An important objective that was addressed during the third year of the project was feeding into the SOM results and analyses, following the Policy Dialogue Platforms, coordinated by MICINN-Spain and MINCYT-Argentina. It was decided that future sub-regional meetings will take account of the bi-regional dimension.
- Since the launching of ABEST Phase II project in December 2009, the participation of Argentinean researchers and SMEs was more actively encouraged. The ABEST Phase

III proposal, which is being negotiated, emphasises on the promotion of this participation.

- ABEST will organise online project angels courses to train Argentinean researchers and project managers in FP7 and certificate the experienced acquired.
- In order to increase and strengthen reciprocity in AR-UE S&T cooperation relations, beyond the annual ABEST II Call for financing traveling to Europe for Argentinean researchers and SMEs to facilitate their participation in the FP7, the Liaison Office will launch a Call directed to European researchers and SMEs to come to Argentina to find partners for future projects.
- Argentina's Reciprocal Agreement with the COST Programme constitutes another relevant initiative to continue supporting S&T bi-regional cooperation.
- In the framework of the elaboration of the National Plan in Science, Technology and Innovation 2011-2014, Round Tables of Agroindustry, Environment and Sustainable Development, Social Development, Energy, Industry and Health are working actively to identify thematic priorities and potentials. As also underlined by the evaluation report on the S&T Cooperation Agreement, policy convergence is strong between the two sides.
- Within the framework of the Meeting of Ministers of Science and Technology of Argentina and Uruguay held on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in Buenos Aires, a Letter of Intent to promote joint cooperation with the European Union, as well as a Commitment Letter to strengthen the Platform BIOTECSUR, was adopted. The activities to be implemented are framed within a Joint Working Programme scheduled for the 2011-2012 period. Furthermore, both Argentinean and Uruguayan Ministers signed two protocols for the creation and start up of two Binational Centers: Argentinean-Uruguayan Binational Center for Science, Technology and Innovation Applied to Agrifood and Argentinean-Uruguayan Binational Centre on Renewable Energies. It is expected that this cooperation will also be beneficial for cooperation opportunities with the EU.
- The BIOTECSUR Platform will start its second phase during 2012.

# Cooperation in Thematic Areas

## Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology

### Achievements:

Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology research was the most important thematic area in the EC-Argentina cooperation in the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme, and its importance has continued during the early calls of the FP7. In 2008 the Directorate for Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology of the DG Research and MINCYT identified 12 potential projects for twinning (6 from each side) in areas of mutual interest: Soil, Plant and Food research. Since then, the twinned projects have developed significant interactions, from information and staff exchanges to the identification of new areas for collaboration, joint publications and new proposals for funding under new FP7 Calls or other resources will be considered. The experience gained during 2009 was reviewed during a second twinning workshop held in Athens, Greece, from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010

With the support of the BioCircle project were both Greece and Argentina consortium partners, a “summer school” for young scientists was organised on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2010. The objective was to provide training on transferable skills (for example, issues related to project preparation and presentation), as well as on scientific fields of relevance.

The twinning mechanism implies a coordinated connection of related projects respectively from FP7 and related Argentinean and LA research programmes. Both parties, EC-FP7 and Argentina agreed to support a limited amount of expenses for twinning activities (meetings, short term staff exchanges, exchanges of information and materials). The cost of these expenses is estimated at 1% of the total project value (about 30.000 euros for an FP7 small collaborative project of 3 million euros). Each part provides equal amounts of financing.

At the regional level, INCO-Nets from South-East Asia (SEA-EU-NET), Africa (CAAST-Net) and Latin America (EULARINET) joined forces for the identification, analysis, selection and formulation of priority R&D themes cutting across the three regions, focussing the KBBE “Climate change mitigation and adaptation for land management and food security”. This offers opportunities for additional synergies in the research agendas of the regions and in collaboration with the EU.

### Outlook:

- Twinning of Research Projects in Areas of Mutual Interest

Given the success achieved during the first round of “twinning” projects in the area of soil, food and plant research, it has been agreed (i) to continue developing this mechanism, to include new projects and to improve its operational aspects; (ii) to identify a number of new potential Argentinean projects for twinning and communicate them to the Commission; (iii) to identify a number of new potential European projects for twinning and communicate them to Argentina; (iv) to explore possibilities for expanding twinning process to include

projects from other MERCOSUR countries; (v) to organise a second follow-up workshop to continue promoting the exchange of experiences and the consolidation of the twinning mechanism as a permanent instrument within the Cooperation Programme in FP7. This workshop is foreseen for October / November 2011 in Argentina, at the Obispo Colombes Experimental Station in Tucumán Province, and will include sessions addressing issues of common interest and review twinning mechanisms itself.

It was agreed to look for support for the twinning activity by submitting a proposal in the framework of Marie Curie International Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES).

- Summer School for Young Scientists

A second summer school will be organised in the framework of BioCircle 2 project. This summer school for early career scientists in Argentina in October 2011 will be also organised back to back with the twinning workshop, and follow the same general model of two modules, one dealing with training on transferable skills (international cooperation including project preparation for presentation to FP7 Calls) and a second focused on training on scientific issues of common interest. The overall aim is to contribute to the training of the next generation of scientists in international cooperation and cutting edge technologies in the areas of soil, plant and food research.

Furthermore, it was agreed that: (i) coverage will be extended to include MERCOSUR countries and possibly other from LAC region; (ii) the event scientific programme will be developed in collaboration with a scientific committee of selected members that participate in twinning projects; and (iii) funding support will be sought from the EU-LAC countries which have SC&T Liaison Offices (Argentina, Brazil, México and Chile) as well as from other existing projects such as BIOCIRCLE 2, EULARINET, ENLACE, and EUCARINET, among others.

- Technology Platforms

In view of the success of the MERCOSUR Biotechnology Platform (BiotecSur) and the ongoing strategy to institutionalise it beyond the current MERCOSUR-EU project, it has been agreed to work jointly in the facilitation of links and exchanges with the different European Technology Platforms (ETPs) related to KBBE area in general and to forestry, oil seeds, beef and poultry related issues in particular. A systematic dialogue between these platforms could facilitate the identification of research bilateral and bi-regional agendas and the networking between scientific communities and private sector organisations. Support will be sought from existing projects, such as EULARINET, ENLACE, and EUCARINET. During 2011, a second phase of BiotecSur will start under DCI co-funding. Initial activities will include the design of an observatory on biotechnology issues for MERCOSUR countries and the launching of Calls on Biofuels and Health. The Calls will follow the priorities identified during the regional consultations carried out by the platform in its first phase of operation.

There are three new KBBE projects with MINCYT participation: ALCUE KBBE (Towards a Latin America and Caribbean Knowledge Based Bio-Economy in partnership with Europe), BIO-CIRCLE 2 (Reinforcing the international cooperation in FP7 FAFB



strengthening the CIRCLE of Third Countries BIO NCPs), STAR-IDAZ (Global Strategic Alliances for the Coordination of Research on the Major Infectious Diseases of Animals and Zoonoses).

Related to the SOM and EULARINET project, many activities were organised by MINCYT in the KBBE field:

A matchmaking event ABEST II / EULARINET will be organised in France from September 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 2011. It will count with the participation of European and Latin American representatives from the academia and the private sector, and the main aim will be to facilitate meetings on R&D specific topics (focused on renewable energies and environment) to facilitate consortia building for 2012 FP7 Calls and the construction of a portfolio of projects. In addition, outputs of the preliminary meeting will be validated and an Implementation Plan of the Bioeconomy Pilot Activity for the next two years will be elaborated.

MINCYT and CIRAD for France, as co-coordinators, will organise a preliminary SOM Working Group Pilot Activity Meeting in Cali, Colombia, on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011. This group will elaborate the agenda of the formal meeting to be held in September, and will discuss some ideas and activities for the implementation of the pilot activity. All participants of ALCUE KBBE project involved in the Bioeconomy WG (Argentina, Spain, France and the European Commission) will participate.

Other forthcoming activities:

- NCP KBBE Meeting at the European Commission in Brussels on July 14<sup>th</sup> 2011.
- Brokerage Event of BIO- CIRCLE 2 project in Brussels on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2011.
- Kick off Meeting of ALCUE KBBE in Cali on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2011
- First KBBE Working Group Pilot Activity in France from September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011
- Workshop on Bottlenecks in the Establishment of Biotech Based Companies (ICGEB) in Buenos Aires on September 2011.

## **Environment (including Climate Change)**

### **Achievements:**

Three new collaborative research project proposals with Argentinean and other LA participants have been submitted in the Environment call of the Cooperation Programme. These projects are currently under negotiation.

The topics are from among the ten proposals presented at the EULARINET Workshop that took place in Bogotá on November 2009 and the six which have been integrated into the 2011 work programme: a) ENV.2011.3.1.1-1 Technologies for water scarcity mitigation in

Latin American context (focus: Latin America); b) ENV.2011.4.2.3-1 Community based management of environmental challenges (focus: Latin America).; and c) ENV2011.2.1.4-1 Potential of biodiversity and ecosystems for the mitigation of climate change (focus: Latin America and the Caribbean).

Argentina is carrying out several international cooperation actions of high relevance also to AR-EU cooperation:

a) Bilateral cooperation with France:

- The Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, (CRNS), the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET) and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MINCYT) established an International Centre (UMI) for the Studies of the Climate and its Impacts.
- In the framework of a new signed agreement, France and Argentina set up a protocol to facilitate the use of the Synchrotron Soleil, at Saint-Aubin - GIF-sur-YVETTE. The agreement provides technical assistance to Argentine research (France) and financial help (MINCYT). The initiative was launched in a workshop held in Buenos Aires (from April 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2011) with discussions about possible uses and applications.

b) Bilateral Cooperation with Germany.

- CONICET and the Max Planck Society established the first Max Planck Partner Institute in Latin-America dedicate to the study and research in biomedicine with emphasis in cellular growth, proteomic and neurobiology. The construction of a new building with the facilities to host the Institute is now in the final steps.

c) Cooperation with other Institutions:

- Argentina has long term cooperation with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). Several projects with the participation of Argentine researchers have been funded by IAI. One of the main goals in these projects is to integrate Latin American scientists' community in a network solving common and relevant problems derived from global change. Human dimension aspects must be included in the projects.

**Outlook:**

- Dissemination Activities. As soon as the new 2012 Call for Theme 6 is published, we will disseminate it among our lists of researchers working in Global Change and Environment problems, inviting them to present / participate in proposals. An Info Day will be run to introduce the new Call, inviting scientists, SMEs, stake holders and decision makers.
- Assistance to International Forums. The Environment NCP will participate in the Environment InfoDay in Brussels on June 17<sup>th</sup>, either in person or online through the Events Diary, and to the EULARINET "Pilot Activities Implementation for the Joint Initiative" to be held in Colombia in September 2011.

## Information and Communication Technologies

### Achievements:

In FP6, five Argentinean organisations only participated in four ICT projects, and four organisations participated in two e-Infrastructures projects. So far, in FP7 there are already 10 participations in 8 ICT projects, as well as five participations in three e-Infrastructures projects. At this moment, there are two open FP7 Infrastructure projects with Argentinean participation: 1) The Preparatory Phase for the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA-PP) (CTA-PP), the first open facility for gamma-ray astronomy in the very-high-energy domain, with a performance which is dramatically improved over existing instruments in terms of sensitivity, energy coverage, survey capability and flexibility; and 2) Grid Initiatives for E-Science Virtual Communities in Europe and Latin America (Gisela), which aims guaranteeing the long-term sustainability of the European-Latin American e-Infrastructure and thus ensure the continuity and enhancement of use of the Virtual Research Communities (VRC).

Argentina was represented by an exhibition stand in the ICT Event 2010 from 27-29 September 2010 in Brussels, and participated actively in a Latin America networking session and a Latin America side event. Argentinean RTD capacities were promoted, and the stand facilitated also the networking between researchers and entrepreneurs from both regions. Argentina formally offered a space to Uruguay in the stand to spread information related to Uruguayan institutions. MINCYT representatives participated in networking sessions on cooperation with Latin America, particularly in “Empowering EU-Latin America ICT Collaboration” organised by the PRO-IDEAL project. In this session, the first Latin American project angel diploma was given to Ms. Alejandra Davidziuk. Based on this training experience, in which there were more than 16 people registered, ABEST will offer a training to improve the understanding of the FP7 Programme and EU funding mechanisms.

The ICT NCP visited many institutions located in Buenos Aires and in different provinces to present the ICT FP7 opportunities, but also in Budapest on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2011: ICT Proposer Day 2011, ICT Venture Gate Brokerage Event, and Ideal-ist face2 meetings. This dissemination was reinforced by ABEST-NET and ABEST representative's attendance and trainings in specific IT events, workshops and meetings.

MYNCYT is supporting the FIRST project, which supports the establishment of Latin American Technology Platforms (LATPs) and their interaction with ETPs. The stakeholders of PLATA, the Future Internet Argentinean Technology Platform, have primarily identified a number of subjects to focus its work and proposals: Embedded Software; Software and Services; Nanoelectronics; and Networked Media Technologies.

The Argentinean ICT priority themes are: Components, Systems, Engineering, Micro and Nano-electronic, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), Systems on-chip, Embedded Systems, Low Cost Sensors, ICT for Independent Living and Inclusion, Applications of ICT for Improving the Logistics of Agricultural Bulk Exports, Applications of ICT for Greater Social Inclusion (as well as Applications to Education).

There is also good complementarity between research and technical cooperation under EU, bilateral and regional programmes.

### **Outlook:**

- The latest version of the Roadmap identifies the four abovementioned R&D ICT areas for Argentina. These subjects are based on the results of the White Book, a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder effort gathered more than 150 key actors to identify technologies, application areas and business that should be primarily fostered in the ICT area in Argentina in the next years. The key technological areas that are taken into account in the report are: Software Engineering; Signals; Image Technologies; Embedded Software; Micro and Nanoelectronics. The application areas are: Industry; Agriculture; Government; Services; Contents; and Security. The transversal areas are: Education and Human Capital; Innovation and I+D; and Diaspora.
- Argentina is working on a new phase to update the ICT Prospective Study condensed in the White Book. At the moment, MINCYT is evaluating the final proposals of the consultants who applied to the call for ICT studies, which include Prospective, Companies Survey, and Technological Monitoring and Competitive Intelligence.
- In addition to the ICT Info Day that ABEST usually organises to present new FP7 Calls, an ICT Forum Day will be organised on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 at MINCYT to discuss the importance of bringing together a broad range of key players in ICT and Research and Development sectors. During this event, the ICT priorities will be discussed to update and monitor them in the same way it was done by FORESTA on 9 June 2011 at the Universidad de Palermo, Buenos Aires.
- The participation of Argentinean organisations in FP7 is expected to be further facilitated by the continuation of the interconnection of RedCLARA and GEANT.
- A new line of support has been launched by MINCYT: FONSOFT and FONTAR offer non-reimbursable funds to finance partially innovation and development technology projects carried out by SMEs in the scope of bi-national and multinational cooperation agreements.
- Argentina is interested in research cooperation based on interoperability of digital TV.
- A new FP7 ICT project (AMERICAS) is currently being negotiated. It aims to support sustainable ICT policy dialogues and foster ICT R&D cooperation between the EU and strategic partner countries in Latin America, by enabling new synergies and effective collaboration through policy makers, researchers and key stakeholders networks in ICT and international cooperation. It includes all countries with a bilateral S&T Agreement in the region (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico) plus Colombia. Under the other FP7 ICT projects, PRO-IDEAL PLUS, FIRST and

FORESTA (all ending at the end of 2011), the FP7 ICT Programme will continue to be promoted with further activities such as information events and coaching courses for potential project participants. More emphasis will be placed on raising the visibility of Argentina in Europe to enable continued growth of cooperation.

- An Argentinean expert will participate at the EU-LAC Workshop and Political Dialogue on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) which will be held in Santiago de Chile on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The workshop will be organised by EULARINET project, in collaboration with the CHIEP II and FORESTA. The objective of the workshop is to create a thematic dialogue both at a technical and a political level regarding ICT cooperation between the European Union and Latin America.

## **Nanoscience and Nanomaterials, Material Science, Industrial Technologies**

### **Achievements:**

Argentinean organisations participated successfully in one NMP project during FP6. With greater emphasis on developing nanoscience and nanomaterials research and applications in Argentinean research policy in the last few years, a number of complementary projects and activities have been developed in collaboration with European partners using different instruments.

One FP7 Projects is a Network in Advanced Materials and Nanomaterials of industrial interest between Europe and Latin American Countries of MERCOSUR (Argentina-Brazil-Uruguay), EULASUR: (<http://www.icmab.es/eulasur/>). The EULASUR meeting held in Bariloche, Argentina took the form of a Summer school on “Synthesis, Processes, Properties and Applications of Materials and Nanomaterials”, October 2010.

Within the FP6 ERANET project, EULANEST, completed in 2010, the partners had decided to open the first joint call for multilateral research projects. Argentina participated by co-financing those projects with participation of Argentinean research institutions. The aim of this call was to promote Sustainable Renewable Energies and Nanosciences research between Europe and Latin America by supporting joint research activities and networking activities in these fields, including both European and Latin American scientists.

In the NMP thematic area, and more specifically in the area of health, three projects were selected in the EULANEST context:

FIBROGEL: Bioinspired nanofibrous gel for Tissue engineering of Cartilage and Bone

- Argentinean partner: National University of La Plata
- Results: The main studies (within the 1st stage of the project) were dedicated to the material’s part development and on the initial cellular interaction of the proposed gel/nanofibrous construct in 2D system to develop an implant with unique properties, which can strongly influence the local bone or cartilage regeneration.

NEURONANO: Magnetotransduction: development of magnetic nanoparticle-viral vector complexes for therapeutic gene delivery in the senile brain

- Argentina partner: Institute for Biochemical Research, National University of La Plata
- Results: During the 1st year of the project efforts were focused on constructing and characterising suitable magnetic nanoparticles (MNP) for use in magnetic field-assisted gene delivery (magnetofection) strategies in vitro and in vivo. Efforts to set up conditions for magnetofection into the rat brain were started using MNP-adenovector complexes expressing the gene for green fluorescent protein or Ds Red2 fluorescent protein.

NanoSkin: Nanoparticles for the Improved Therapy of Severe Skin Diseases – Leishmaniasis and Squamous Cell Carcinoma as Examples

- Argentina partner: National University of Quilmes, Bernal
- Results: Nanomedicine Research Program (NRP): there were prepared formulations to be used in photodynamic therapy against cutaneous leishmaniasis, on in vitro grown parasites and on infected animal models. In a further step, the infection of tri dimensional reconstructed skin models will be attempted, to validate a test aimed to reduce the need for animals.

### **Outlook:**

The major capacity building programme for nano capabilities of Argentinean SMEs supported under the National Indicative Programme co-funded by DCI (RELEX/DEVCO) that has started in 2010 may contribute to opening new opportunities for cooperation also in the area of NMP in FP7.

The work of NanoForum-EU-LA is continued in a wider ICPC context by a FP7 support action ICPCNanoNet. This action aims to develop an electronic archive of nanoscience and nanotechnology (N&N) publications derived from publishers and open access repositories, and by encouraging researchers to deposit their own peer-reviewed publications; provide regular information on research expertise, capacities and initiatives in different world regions; and network N&N researchers in different global regions through a combination of online facilities and physical workshops, with the purpose of promoting collaborative research. The project has produced the first set of regional reports, and about 30 Argentinean institutions and 10 individual researchers involved in nanotechnology research are currently recorded in the data base. These networking activities are expected to boost the participation of Argentina in FP7 projects.

The regional approach to cooperation should be actively used for opening new opportunities, such as through the possible participation of Argentinean teams in research on sustainable packaging materials, pending the results of the evaluation process.

## **Energy**

### **Achievements:**

The participation of Argentina under the Energy research programme in FP6 was rather lean with two participations in two projects in energy and carbon capture and storage fields.

Since then, an increased effort for cooperation in energy research with Latin America has taken place, and two SICA topics have been published targeting the region in the area of biofuels. The effort has resulted also in a substantial increase in Argentinean participation in the first Energy Call of FP7: 13 participants in 9 submitted proposals, all related to the identification of research needs and technological opportunities for biofuels production in Latin America. In the second Energy Call, 16 participants submitted 9 proposals, most of them related to SICA topic "Enhancing international cooperation between the EU and Latin America in the field of Biofuels", and one to the joint Energy-NMP call "Novel materials for energy applications". Two proposals have been retained with Argentinean participants, the DIBANET and Fly Hy projects.

Argentina has been a successful participant in Energy Calls, ranking eighth in the list of received EC financing, with 4 participants receiving a total sum of 350.000 €. Currently, in receiving funding from the FP7 Non Nuclear Energy Programme, Latin America ranks behind Russia with a total of 3.9 M€. Regionally, Argentina ranks third, behind Brazil and Mexico.

Some projects were co-financed by MINCYT in the framework of the ERA-Net's EULANEST Joint Call ("European-Latin American Network for Science and Technology" <http://www.S2lat.eu/eulanest>), aimed to promote research collaboration in the area of Sustainable Renewable Energies in the frame of Climate Changes and Nanosciences with emphasis on Human Health. From 65 proposals submitted and 7 selected, five of them had Argentinean participation. Two proposals were in the area of Sustainable Renewable Energies in the frame of climate changes:

- 1) CERENH2 (Cerium-Based catalysts for the purification of hydrogen from renewable sources: a theoretical and experimental approach of the structure – reactivity relationships), with the participation of the Institute of Technological Development for the Chemical Industry of Santa Fe.
- 2) SOCs (Energy conversion from renewable sources in solid oxide cells), with the participation of the National University of Rosario.

The XXXIII Work Meeting of the Argentine Association of Renewable Energy and Environment held in Salta, Argentina, on November 2010 showed the potential of research teams to work in Solar Applications like Solar water heating, Solar thermal electric power plants, Developments in Solar Cells technology and Photovoltaic experiences. Progresses in biomass energy studies, advances in Sustainable and Bioclimatic Design of Buildings, and works on Wind energy, were also presented. Publications available in <http://www.asades.org.ar/> could be analysed in order to find possibilities on collaborative projects.

#### **Outlook:**

- Regional S&T cooperation with Latin America is of high strategic interest for the EU in terms of environmental specificities and scientific excellence. Biofuels research is a significant area for which the regional cooperation with Latin America has recently

- been reinforced, but other clean energy technology areas should also be explored.
- Areas for joint S&T cooperation should primarily be conducted at regional level and bilateral collaboration investigated where it represents the most feasible avenue for cooperation.
  - In all cases, the promotion of the participation of Argentina in the FP7 energy programme should continue and be promoted on an ad-hoc basis (considering the added value of its participation), reinforcing the information campaigns and dissemination activities to well targeted and relevant audiences.
  - Argentinean participation in the Energy Info Day on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2011 is recommended in order to be fully informed about new opportunities and liaise with EU possible partners.
  - WP 2011 Energy calls will focus mainly on the priorities of the SET Plan and the European Industrial Initiatives.
  - Topics that could potentially interest Argentinean participants will address bioenergy carriers, development of design tools for offshore wind farms or low medium temperature solar thermal systems for heat.
  - One of the most important renewable energy fields in Argentina finds its current strengths in the development of hydrogen as an energy vector, both in the area of fuel cells and in the development of hybrid fuel based on compressed natural gas mixed with hydrogen. The European experiences such as the CUTE project (Clean Urban Transport for Europe), could be taken as an example for the country.
  - Related to SOM Pilot Initiatives, Argentina will participate in workshops of Renewable Energy. In phase one, meetings for discussing the background document on EU-LAC joint priorities will take place on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 in Madrid and on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Montelimar (CYTED and CONICYT Renewable Energies Matchmaking event). In phase two, workshops on implementation of activities will take place in Mexico on June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 2011 (Bioenergy and Solar Energy) and Rio de Janeiro from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 (Wind Energy and Renewable Energy Summing Up Section and Specific Matchmaking activities).

## **Health**

### **Achievements:**

In FP6 Argentina had 8 successful participations in projects on Health, two in Integrated Projects, three in two different STREPs, one SSA and one Network of Excellence. The areas addressed in the projects range from specific diseases to fundamental research. In addition, Argentina participated successfully in five specific international cooperation projects (INCO) in health related topics (8 participations).

Analysing the first three calls of FP7 (2007-2010), Argentinean organisations have successfully applied for twelve consortia, mainly related to human health. Awareness raising workshops were scheduled to inform the Argentinean scientific community about opportunities for cooperation with the European Union.

A policy paper has been outlined to be submitted by Mr. Indridi Benediktsson, EC Scientific Officer in Health of the European Commission. In the framework of



EULARINET project, a workshop to define thematic areas of regional interest for SICA actions was organised. Representatives from Latin American and the European Commission participated. A list of proposals that were proposed for inclusion in future Health work programmes was produced.

Argentina entered in the Health National Contact Points network in May 2010 and participated successfully in the 4th General Training Session on Legal and Financial Aspects in FP7, in the city of Rome. The knowledge acquired in this Training Session was of prime importance for ABEST. Through the use of new specific tools and mindset, it served to address all the hindrances normally associated with the legal and financial aspects of FP7 projects.

### **Outlook:**

In order to continue and improve cooperation in Health based on mutual interest and benefits, the following actions have been agreed:

1. The implementation of thematic workshops in different cities and provinces of the country to give greater visibility to the opportunities offered by the FP7. Such workshops feature success stories of FP7 consortia building with Argentinean participation, in order to encourage both the industrial and the academic sector to become involved. These events will be specially directed to researchers and SMEs specialised in the topics of the 2011-2012 Call.
2. The participation in the National Contact Point network. Argentinean Health NCP will attend to training sessions, exchange knowledge and best practices with NCPs from the EU and Third Countries, spread profiles of researchers, inform about the opening of new Calls and increase the visibility of Argentinean health research capacities in Europe. These practices will also help to identify common needs and knowledge and capacity building gaps.
3. The promotion of a Latin American NCP HEALTH Network. The participation of Argentina, Brazil and Costa Rica in the “EU LAC Health Project Defining a Roadmap for cooperative Health Research between Latin America and the EU: a policy oriented approach” will be the first step to create a regional network to support the coordination of common activities, exchange information and share best practices. The creation of a coordinated regional body of research in the Health area was proposed.
4. In the context of stepping up ethics reviews and analyses, Argentinean ethics experts will be invited to a conference in Brussels, currently only in the planning stages.
5. Highlight issues connected with strategic nuclei defined in the Working Group on Health of the National Plan of Science, Technology and Innovation 2011-2014, with the necessary intervention of MINCYT. Those nuclei are: Biosimilars (biological products, including monoclonal antibodies); Platforms (genomics, animal facilities with good laboratory practice); MRI, proteomics, bioinformatics; Infectious Diseases; Neurodegenerative diseases and metabolic syndrome (type II diabetes and cardiovascular diseases); Cancer and autoimmune inflammatory diseases;

Bioengineering tissue or regenerative medicine; Phytomedicine (for cosmetic, nutraceutical, herbal); and Nanomedicine.

## **Transport (including Aeronautics)**

### **Achievements:**

The National Directorate of International Relations of MINCYT appointed Dr. Marcos Actis, Dean of the Engineering Faculty at the National University of La Plata (UNLP), as an expert to give adviser on FP7 Calls related to the subject.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010, Dr. Alejandro Patanella, Director of the Aeronautics Department of UNLP, participated in the Growing GALILEO 2010- Info Day to identify opportunities in the upcoming Calls.

MINCYT participated in the “CoopAIR-LA Workshop - Aeronautics Research: an opportunity for Cooperation between EU and Latin American Countries” on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 at the European Commission, Brussels. Two Argentinean representatives attended to present our experience in the project and our RTD capabilities in Aeronautics.

From March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, Dr. Actis, other experts and a MINCYT representative participated in the different activities and sessions of AERODAYS 2011, the Sixth European Aeronautics Days.

The Argentinean delegation also participated in the Thematic Expert Group in Aeronautics, a previous event organised by CONACYT’s Bureau for Mexico-European Union Cooperation in the framework of the Bilateral project UEMEXCYT2, to take advantage of the COOPAIR-LA project outcomes and continue with efforts to foster ST&I collaboration with Europe in Aeronautics. During the meeting, the Argentinean experts took part in the working group meetings to identify specific topics for further collaboration (SICA Calls or any regional or bilateral action for the future). Due to the importance of the LA capabilities, the participation of Argentinean and Brazilian experts was a key factor for the development and success of the workshop, as well as to reach a critical mass.

### **Outlook:**

In the area of intermodal freight transport, the on-going coordination and support action ENABLE could help promote EU-Argentina cooperation and identify research topics of common interest.

In addition, further cooperation in the field of urban intermodal transport systems (ITS) is envisaged with LAC countries, incl. Argentina.

Two topics in the 2012 work programme explicitly mention cooperation with Latin America: flight physics and environmentally friendly airports.

## **Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH)**

### **Achievements:**

Up to now, four out of 37 applications (including 45 Argentinean partners) have been selected for FP7 funding in the following areas:

- Connecting Socio-Economic Research on the Dynamics of the Knowledge Society in the European Union and Latin American and Caribbean Countries (EULAKS project).
- Models and their Effects on Development paths: an Ethnographic and Comparative Approach to knowledge transmission and livelihood strategies (MEDEA project).
- Global Re-ordering: Evolution through European Networks (GREEN project)
- Environmental Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean: Developing Frameworks for Sustainable and Equitable Natural Resource Use (ENGOV project – includes two Argentinean partners).

The SSH National Contact Point, Dr. Florencia Luna, has already participated in a number of activities to support the participation of Argentinean teams in FP7 more effectively:

1. The EU-LAC Workshop “Environment: Collective Challenges of Latin America and the Caribbean” was held in Santiago de Chile in October 2009. It was organised by the European Commission and CONICYT. The aim of this meeting was to present and discuss the research topic for the new SICA with Latin America.
2. A Training Workshop on Legal and Financial Issues was held in Sophia, Bulgaria, in January of 2010. It was organised by Net4Society, a network of National Contact Points in SSH, in which Dr. Luna participates.
3. The Argentinean SSH NCP also assisted to the brokerage event organised by Net4Society in Istanbul in September 2010.
4. Several meetings with Dr Philippe Keraudren and other colleagues from the International Cooperation Directorate of the European Commission were held to discuss how the participation of the Argentinean researchers could be improved until the end of FP7.

### **Outlook:**

In order to continue developing this mutually interesting and beneficial cooperation, the following activities and approaches have been agreed:

1. Organisation of Information Meetings with the Argentinean researchers from the Socio-Economic Science and Humanities Area. It would be particularly appropriate in September 2011 especially since the new WP combines two years (2012 and 2013).
2. Participation in SSH meetings that will be held in Brussels, in order to re-transmit

the information to local researchers during the above-mentioned information meetings. Such meeting on two challenges (i.e. with more than €6,5 M EU contribution) linked to poverty and development and world food needs is organised by Unit B.5 on 8 October.

3. Net4Society is organising a brokerage event in September 2011 in Istanbul to promote the next call and foster the interaction among researchers. This event will be promoted through an open call for interested researchers.
4. Organisation of a Workshop in Argentina with ethics experts, research ethics committees, authorities (to deal with clinical trials, data protection, animal welfare, etc.) and scientists and discuss the impact of the ethics review procedures on them. This kind of workshop is being organised in certain countries in Europe and can be replicated in Argentina as a way of knowing needs and problems of researchers regarding ethics. It will also help to promote further cooperation opportunities with the European Commission

## Mobility/Exchange of Researchers

### Achievements:

- As far as the participation of **Argentinean researchers** in the Marie Curie Actions (MCAs) in FP7, to date a total of 29 individuals have benefited from a Marie Curie grant: 8 in the International Incoming Fellowships scheme (IIF), 9 in Intra-European Fellowships scheme (IEF), three in the Reintegration Grants and 9 researchers in projects of host-driven actions (one in the Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways -IAPP- scheme and 8 in Initial Training Networks - ITN).
- There is a total of 41 **Argentinean institutions** participating in the MCAs: 31 are involved in the new International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES), with a budget of 1.7 million EUR, two are involved in an ITN project, with a budget of 0.3 million EUR, six in IIF, with a budget of 0.08 million EUR, and two research organisations are hosting researchers with an International Outgoing Fellowship (IOF).

### Outlook:

- As in the previous years, the 2012 People Work Programme will bring several possibilities of cooperation between Europe and Argentina. Argentinean organisations will be able to participate in research networks through the IRSES, ITN and IAPP actions and to host European researchers with the IOF action. Argentinean researchers will be able to participate in the previously mentioned network based actions and also in the individual actions IIF and CIG (Career Integration Grant). Their participation in co-funded national programmes via the COFUND action will also be possible.
- In addition, the 2012 People Work Programme (subject to its adoption) will have two new actions implemented under the **ITN umbrella**: the **Innovative Doctoral Programmes (IDP)** and the **European Industrial Doctorates (EID)**. The first action will fund innovative, interdisciplinary and intersectoral doctoral trainings. The second one will support doctoral trainings jointly supervised, by both an academic institution and a commercial research enterprise. Argentinean doctoral candidates will be able to participate in projects funded by both actions.
- It was agreed to continue raising awareness of the possibilities offered to Argentinean researchers and host organisations in the relevant Marie Curie Actions, and particularly in ITN and IAPP. The next ITN and IAPP calls will be published in July and October 2011 (provided the Work Programme 2012 adoption, expected on 19 July 2011), respectively, with a respective available budget of more than 420 million EUR and 80 million EUR;
- Targeted publicity also among EU hosts and researchers in order to stimulate the interest and the knowledge of the possibilities offered (e.g. IOF scheme);

- More involvement of the Argentinean Contact point in all PEOPLE NCP meetings if possible; the possibility to organise a dedicated ad hoc FP7 contact meeting on International cooperation;
- The possible participation of Argentinean researchers within the calls published under the COFUND programmes should also be raised. The COFUND calls can be found at the following address: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/cofund\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/cofund_en.html)
- Increase awareness of the European Mobility Portal – EURAXESS, and explore the possibility to link the Brazilian mobility portal to the EURAXESS portal [http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index_en.cfm)

# Capacities Programme and related activities

## Small and Medium Size Enterprises

### **Achievements:**

ABEST II gives support coordination within the EU-AR cooperation activities encouraging functional links and synergies between research, development and innovation. Moreover, the Liaison Office cooperates with the Argentinean partner of the EU funded project FIRST, in order to foster interaction between European and Latin American Technology Platforms (ETPs and LATPs) in the fields of Future Internet and ICT components and systems.

At the moment, six Argentinean SMEs participate in FP7 projects.

During March and December 2010 MINCYT organised, with APRE (IT) support, three trainings to promote SME participation in FP7. More than 100 people attended these events in Buenos Aires and Cordoba.

Argentina appointed Mr. Jose Maria Louzao as SME NCP. He started participating, together with ICT NCP Ms. Rosa Wachenchauzer, in match-making and cooperation activities during the ICT 2010 Expo in Brussels.

On February 17, 2011, SME NCP participated on an information meeting between representatives of ABEST, the Argentinean Industrial Union, and several SMEs.

The Liaison Office incorporated an SME Help- Desk in order to strengthen innovation capacities of Argentinean SMEs, extending their networks and their contribution to the development of new links with the EU. In this context, MINCYT is preparing a proposal to join in the European Enterprise Network (EEN) to establish a Network Centre in Argentina.

The Mr. Jose Maria Louzao presented on an updated document on the SME situation in Argentina in February 2011. This document set up the bases for future actions and new guidelines for enhancing Argentinean SME participation.

The NCP also went to Puerto Rico on March 2011 on a Multi-sectorial Commercial Mission organised by the International Trade Sub-secretary of Foreign Affairs Ministry, with support from the Federal Public Investment, Services and Planning Ministry, Exportar Foundation and other official and private entities.

An Argentina - South Africa Workshop on Information and Communication Technologies was held in Pretoria on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2011. In that opportunity, Mr. Louzao met Mr. Sihle Dlungwana, South African SME NCP, for mutual advice and sharing information in this specific area. Since South Africa is one of ABEST II Partners, they established also a plan on cooperation activities and future common actions.

Mr. Louzao has presented his application to be part of the SME NCP Network.

## **Outlook:**

- The current ABEST II Call to Facilitate Argentinean Participation in the FP7 is focused on SME participation.
- During May and June 2011, the SMEs NCP will travel to Italy and Spain to meet the Italian Space, Transport, SME and ICT NCP, Mr. Iacopo De Angelis, and will also meet the Spanish CDTI SMEs and ICT NCPs.
- During August 2011, the SMEs NCP will organise the CESSI Entrepreneurial Meeting, where the 7FP will be presented.
- MINCYT will organise Info Days once FP7 Calls are launched. Specific Info Days dedicated to SMEs will be held in Buenos Aires and other four provinces and cities of the country (Corrientes, Salta, La Plata, and Chubut).
- MINCYT will continue disseminating SME opportunities within People Programme Info Days, mainly related to the IAPP.

## **Science in Society (SiS)**

### **Achievements:**

Under FP7, four out of eight applications have been selected for funding as follows:

- Civil society engagement with ecological economies (CEECEC project).
- A multistakeholder dialogue providing inputs to implement the European Code of Conduct for Nanosciences & Nanotechnologies (N&N) research (NANOCODE project).
- Transformative Research Activities. Cultural diversities and Education in Science (TRACES project).
- An Observatory for Science in Society based in Social Models (SISOB project).

## **Support to international cooperation**

Support to international cooperation is presented primarily in the sections 'Facilitating cooperation' and 'Capacity Building in S&T and Synergies between S&T and other EU Policies and their instruments'



## **Capacity Building in S&T and Synergies between S&T and other EU Policies and their instruments**

In the following, a number of potential or actual synergies are presented between S&T cooperation with Argentina and other European policies and their instruments, without prejudice to the development and implementation of these other policy areas. Developing and using these synergies, including those with EU Member States' bilateral cooperation where applicable, may garner greater effects and, potentially, cost-effectiveness, of overall cooperative relations. It is in this context that this roadmap of joint activities in science and technology is evolving.

There are evident synergies between the bi-lateral EU-Argentina Development Cooperation Programme defined in the **Argentinean Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for 2007-2013** (the second part – 2010-2013 has some explicit potential for synergies) and the S&T cooperation strategy.

The three components of the CSP - Education, Social Cohesion and Innovation and Competitiveness - could be very complementary for building capacities in S&T. The complementarity with sub-regional activities at MERCOSUR level are obvious (e.g. Biotech-EU-MERCOSUR). Synergies should also be actively exploited with the Marie Curie Programme and its Staff Exchange modality (IRSES), whenever possible.

The Social Cohesion component will develop concrete initiatives related to better social distribution, employment and addressing inequities, social dialogue, synergies between social cohesion and environmental protection, such as projects related with poverty reduction and a sustainable management of natural resources. There is a strong potential complementarity with several FP7 thematic areas such as Social Sciences and Humanities and uptake of research results under this component might amplify positive effects for both.

The EU Delegation in Buenos Aires will carry out public events with the FP7 Liaison Office hosted by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and also support producing information materials that promote cooperation in the interconnected areas of education, science, technology and innovation.

With the beginning of the ABEST II project, the NCP nominated for the different thematic areas, are taking a more active role in the activities of the Argentinean Liaison Office specially those that have to do with the dissemination actions of the Office, and the participation of the NCP on the different conferences of each thematic area that will take place in Europe and Latin America during the next years. Specific attention will be paid to increasing visibility of Argentinean researchers and research capacities in Europe.

ABEST is preparing a proposal to join in the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) to establish a Network centre in Argentina, in view of accessing EEN's tools and cooperation mechanisms and provide business support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). MINCYT through ABEST is already involved in providing business support to SMEs in Argentina to improve the competitiveness of technology-based SME's and their cooperation

to their peers in Europe. Other activities are mentioned in the section on SMEs.

Some specific actions were carried out under the FP7 Capacities Programme, such as INCO-Net, the BILAT, research infrastructure and research for the benefit of SMEs.

Argentinean INCO NCPs have been very active in the last activities carried out within the INCO Work Programmes in FP7, supporting bi-regional cooperation through INCO-Nets, bilateral cooperation partnerships with countries the EU has S&T agreements (BILATs) with, supporting programmes to coordinate national activities (ERANET) and participating in relevant activities. The collaborative research projects arising from the FP6 EULANEST ERA-NET project are mentioned in the section on NMP.

## Tentative Timetable

May 2011 - June 2012

2011									2012			
Cooperation Area	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
S&T Steering Committee Meeting	13- Kick off Meeting of Star Idaz in London  31- NCPs Videoconference	1- Political Videoconference										VII SC Meeting in Brussels
BILAT		ABEST II Travel Grants for Argentineans to facilitate consortia building	20 & 25- EC Videoconferences for launching FP7 2011-2012 Calls  26- Info Day for launching FP7 2011-2012 Calls in Buenos Aires	Info Day for launching FP7 2011-2012 Calls in UCA, Buenos Aires  Info Day for launching FP7 2011-2012 Calls in FLACSO, Buenos Aires  ABEST II Travel Grants for Europeans to facilitate consortia building with Argentinean participation	ABEST Net Info Day on FP7 2011-2012 Calls in Mendoza and San Luis, Argentina	ABEST Training in Brussels  ABEST Net Info Day on FP7 2011-2012 Calls in Chubut, Argentina	ABEST Net Info Day on FP7 2011-2012 Calls in Salta, Argentina					Argentina-UE Cooperation Days  Matchmaking
ALC-UE SOM / EULARINET		7-8- EU-LAC Workshop and Political Dialogue on ICT in Santiago de Chile  22- KBBE Working Group Pilot Activity Meeting in Buenos Aires  22-23- Meeting for discussing the background		31- Workshop on implementation of activities in Rio de Janeiro (SOM)	1- Workshop on Wind Energy implementation activities in Rio de Janeiro  15-16- Biregional on Biodiversity in Manizales  21-23- Biregional on Renewable Energies in							



