

Report of the 13th Joint Steering Committee for Science and Technology Cooperation meeting (JSCM) between the European Union and Argentina

June 8th, 2022

The 13th Meeting of the Joint Steering Committee took place virtually on June 8, 2022 and it was co-chaired, on the EU side by Maria Cristina Russo, Director for Global Approach and International Cooperation in Research and Innovation (R&I), Directorate General for Research & Innovation, European Commission and on the Argentinian side by Karina Pombo, Director from the National Directorate for the Promotion of Scientific Policy at Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MINCyT). The meeting was attended by representatives of MINCyT, Pampa Azul Initiative, the Argentine Foundation of Nanotechnology (FAN), the National Commission of Space activities (CONAE), the Secretariat of Malvinas, Antarctica and the South Atlantic of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, the European Commission Directorates General for: Research and Innovation; Education and Culture; Agriculture; Defence, Industry and Space, the European Research Council Executive Agency, and the European External Action Service.

Within the framework of the ‘Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the European Community and the Argentine Republic’, both sides endeavour to promote, develop and facilitate strategic cooperation in areas of mutual interest, by implementing R&I activities that intend to contribute to economic, social and sustainable development. During the meeting they highlighted the important role played by the network of National Contact Points (NCPs) and the need to nominate a contact person dedicated to the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions.

On the EU side, the potential and importance for increasing cooperation, in line with the Global Approach for R&I, including through multilateral initiatives and through the Horizon Europe programme was highlighted.

On the Argentinian side, it was mentioned the need to strengthen the international collaboration and adjust it to the National Science, Technology, and Innovation Plan 2030 in order to promote regional integration and synergies between our regions around agendas that favour scientific research and technological development.

Both sides took note of the importance of ensuring the care, protection and sustainable management of the planet’s oceans, seas and coasts and shared experiences and good practices regarding the sustainable development. The decision of Argentina to sign the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance Declaration was welcomed. Both sides acknowledged the importance of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Ministerial Forum where the Declaration will be signed, which will take place in Washington D.C. (USA) on 12-14 July 2022, as a milestone for our cooperation in marine research. Both sides expressed interest in exploring further cooperation and intend to organise a bilateral meeting on marine research cooperation in the next months and a field visit in Argentina during the first quarter of 2023 in the framework of an event on marine research cooperation. The EU side presented the outline of the Mission ‘Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030’ and the relevance of international cooperation for its success.

The sides acknowledged the importance of cooperation in global health through multilateral initiatives. In the area of the COVID-19 pandemic, both sides referred to the development of diagnostic and therapeutic tools and the reorientation of health services towards more

preventive strategies. They recognised the need to work on preparedness and on addressing the social and economic impact of the pandemic in the frame of existing multilateral initiatives and activities, such as the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GLOPID-R).

Both sides welcomed the considerable progress of adoption procedure of an administrative arrangement on 'Copernicus', to support cooperation on issues such as the development of space-based applications in fields related to environment, land and ocean monitoring, and urban development. The signature of the arrangement is envisaged during the second half of 2022.

Both sides are satisfied in assessing the potential for Argentina of the European Global Navigation Satellite System 'Galileo' and related applications, following the outreach activities undergone by the Galileo Information Center (GIC). Both sides see positively the high potential of Galileo in fields such as e.g., precision agriculture; air, road, maritime and rail transport; urban mobility; fisheries; mining; and search and rescue, and envisage to advance towards tangible results for Argentinean users and stakeholders. In this regard, greater participation by Argentina in Horizon Europe space projects would be positive.

Both sides acknowledged the importance of nanotechnologies, and they intend to assess ways of cooperation in nanotech applied to the food chain value (nanosensors-nanoelectronics) and to foster collaboration between nanotech ecosystems in Argentina and Europe, supporting the participation of entrepreneurs and incubators.

Both sides took note of the relevance of soil health for ensuring food security, and for soils to continue providing other essential ecosystem services such as clean water, biodiversity and climate regulation. Unsustainable soil use and soil degradation are global problems leading to a decline of the quality of the environment, threatening the livelihood of millions of people around the world. It is therefore very relevant that both sides continue cooperating on research and innovation on soil health, sustainable soil management and soil monitoring. The new EU Mission "A Soil Deal", which was presented during the meeting, could be one of the ways for channelling this cooperation.

Concerning the framework conditions for R&I, both sides highlighted the importance of developing common values and principles needed to create a level playing field for researchers from Argentina and the European Union to cooperate with each other on the basis of trust.

In this sense, both sides acknowledged -the importance of driving an Open Science culture globally based on commonly shared principles and values such as FAIR data that are 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'. As science is a global enterprise and many R&I collaborations are international in nature, researchers across the world need to share and reuse knowledge, data and infrastructure across borders as early and as openly as possible to advance in the most effective way and enable quality science. Both sides intend to exchange information and experience on developing and implementing open science into R&I.

Finally, both sides stressed the importance of continuing and boosting the successful participation of Argentina in the European Research Council and the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions and build on this success to develop joint promotion activities (including at regional level) and the support of the new MSCAdvocacy initiative. They recognised the importance of promoting mobility across sectors, disciplines and countries, as well as high-quality research training for doctoral and post-doctoral researchers and R&I staff. They also

acknowledged the key role of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions for the development of excellent international networks and research cooperation at doctoral and postdoctoral level.

The next meeting of the Joint Steering Committee will take place in 2023.