



JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

XI Joint Steering Committee Meeting of the Bilateral Agreement on Science and Technology between the European Union and Argentina

June 7th 2019

Overview

The **11th Joint Steering Committee on cooperation on science and technology between the European Union and Argentina** was hosted on 7 June 2019 by the Secretariat of Government in Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (SGCTeIP) under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology, in Buenos Aires. This occasion marked the **20th anniversary of the signature of the EU-Argentina Science and Technology Agreement**, which has formed the basis of strong, effective and strategic cooperation between the two regions.

Underlining the commitment to pursue common approaches to research and innovation and in particular to **Open Access**, Argentina will join **Coalition S**, the global coalition promoting open access to scientific results. Argentina expressed its interest in promoting a regional initiative on this topic among the countries from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The 11th Joint Steering Committee was co-chaired by **Mariano Jordan**, National Director for Cooperation and Institutional Integration at SGCTeIP and **Maria Cristina Russo**, Director for International Cooperation at the Directorate General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission.

Main topics of discussion

Both sides recalled that the Argentina-EU partnership in Science, Technology and Innovation is based on **shared values and common interests** and that they should continue to work jointly on the most pressing societal issues where research and innovation can make a strong contribution.

In this respect, the two sides reviewed the recent research and innovation (R&I) policy developments and acknowledged the progress made since the last Joint Steering Committee Meeting of 18 April 2018 in the areas of common interest. In particular, on **marine research**, the EU and Argentina highlighted the importance of the Administrative Arrangement signed last year, which is the basis for an enhanced cooperation in this strategic area. It allows, *inter alia*, for active involvement of scientists from both regions in a number of key initiatives that study the oceans, which are very relevant to the understanding of the climate change and marine ecosystems.

The two sides underlined the **openness of Horizon 2020** and of the **future Horizon Europe Programme** and the strong interest in the Programme among the Argentinean R&I community. They paved the way for further strengthening of the S&T collaboration in strategic areas, which are essential for creating a forward-looking, secure, inclusive and sustainable society such as:

1. **Marine research:** Both sides looked forward to the implementation of the activities agreed in the workshop in Buenos Aires on 6 June, in the framework of the Administrative Arrangement on cooperation in marine research agreed in 2018. In this framework, both sides agreed to maximise efforts and to cooperate through respective strategies to bring benefits to the people living on the Atlantic Ocean, to implement the joint activities envisaged in the Horizon 2020 funded AANhOR project, and to engage in joint work (also with other countries joining the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance) in developing a programme for an All Atlantic Observing System;
2. **Bio-economy:** Both parties acknowledged the importance of the International Bioeconomy Forum as space for regular and strategic international cooperation with a focus on policy coherence and on exploiting synergies between countries and regions. They agreed to continue their cooperation in particular in the working groups on Microbiome and Forest. The parties have highlighted that in the framework of the FORESTVALUE Project, Argentina will organize a regional Forestry workshop in October 2019 with funding agencies and experts from both regions;
3. **Health:** The two sides looked forward to the implementation of the joint projects on cancer, and to their future Argentinean cooperation under the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases and the Global Research collaboration for Infectious Diseases Preparedness. They also recalled their common commitment to work together to fight antimicrobial resistance from two projects: EXEDRA with the JPIAMR, and MICROBIOMESUPPORT, in which SGCTeIP is partner. In the same vein, Argentina is part of the EULAC PerMed project that seeks to strengthen the global efforts in Personalized Medicine and the cooperation of Europe with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC);
4. **Research infrastructures:** The two sides noted the work of the EU-LAC working group on research infrastructures and underlined the high interest and contribution of Argentina in the group. They agreed to pursue the objective of opening up cross-border access to research infrastructures in the two regions and to share best practices in the areas of governance and investment planning as a key element of the EU-LAC Common Research Area.

The two sides also acknowledged the good progress made on **framework conditions for research and innovation cooperation** and the perspective for enhanced future collaboration. In particular, on **mobility of researchers**, the high engagement of the Argentinean researchers in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions was acknowledged with satisfaction and the leading role of Argentina in the LAC region was particularly highlighted. Argentina was the first Latin American country in joining the European Researchers' Nights with an excellent performance and activities based at the Centro Cultural de la Ciencia. The EU also welcomed the current involvement of Argentina in Erasmus+ and encouraged Argentina's

further participation in, for example, Capacity Building projects in the field of Higher Education and to Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters actions.

Concerning the **European Research Council**, both sides expressed satisfaction with the number of Argentinean researchers who have spent periods with ERC excellence-based projects, placing the country at the top among the LAC countries. In addition, the EU announced that from this year the Synergy grants awarded by the European Research Council are open to Principal Investigators based outside the EU and encouraged Argentinean researchers to take advantage of this opportunity.

In the context of the discussion on further cooperation areas, both parties welcomed the potential future association of Argentina to **EUREKA**, pending the decision of the EUREKA High Level Group on the basis of its meeting with the Argentinean delegation on June 15th, 2019 in London.

The two sides agreed to cooperate further on **smart specialisation** to support macro-regional development through the Joint Research Centre. They noted the results of the workshop on **technology transfer** held in Buenos Aires in June 2019 with participation of members of the TTO Circle and Argentinean representatives from all sectors, and explored the proposals for staff exchange between the regions and exchanging knowledge on business-academia links, IP policies and financial instruments for technology transfer.

The EU and Argentina recognised the enormous value **artificial intelligence** could deliver for the economy and society, being aware of the importance of creating the appropriate framework conditions for its development and use.

Finally, the two sides looked forward to a successful conclusion of the negotiations on a **cooperation arrangement on data access and satellite data sharing** under the **Copernicus programme**, to support collaboration on areas of mutual interest, such as application of space technology in emergency response and land and ocean monitoring.

The two sides agreed that the **next 12th Joint Steering Committee Meeting** will be held in **2020** in **Brussels** and would be the occasion to review the progress achieved.