

“Strengthening international cooperation in Research & Innovation Experiences from Latin America and the Caribbean, and Mediterranean Partner Countries”

17 – 19 June 2013, Marseille, France

The 4th INCO Conference entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in Research & Innovation Experiences from Latin America and the Caribbean, and Mediterranean Partner Countries” and the annual meeting of the National Contact Points for international cooperation (INCO NCPs) took place in Marseille (France) on the 17-19th June 2013. It put emphasis on the future of international cooperation in Research and Innovation under Horizon 2020 and under others initiatives. The event displayed two geographical focuses: Latin-American and the Caribbean, and Mediterranean Partner Countries. The event brought together a diverse range of experts working in the field of International research co-operation from all over the world. It was attended by 157 participants from 68 countries.

The first day of the conference, 17th June 2013, was dedicated to specific international cooperation project meetings. The main day, 18th June 2013, was the highlight of the 3-day event and provided a platform to reinforce the network of the INCO NCPs. The third day, 19th June 2013, was the annual INCO NCP meeting. It included the NCP training mainly focused on communication strategies. These activities are part of the project INCONTACT-One World funded by the 7th EU Research Framework programme.

Embellishing the event, the Institute of Research for Development (IRD) provided the exhibition



“[Water at the heart of science](#)”, presenting one of the greatest challenges within the Millennium Development Goals: improving access to water. From the Mediterranean basin to the valleys of the Andes, it gives more insight into the key role that research has to play in the sustainable management of water as a vital, indispensable resource for development.

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A researcher samples water for an analyze in the Azufrera lagoon in North Chile.

The 4th INCO Conference was organized by the Europe Department of the Institute of Research for Development (IRD) in close cooperation with the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission (EC). It was officially opened by Dr. Ariel Crozon, Director of the IRD Chairman Office who highlighted the crucial role of international cooperation for the achievement of Millennium Development Goals. Dr. Elisabeth Lipiatou, Head of Unit at DG Research and Innovation (CE) recognized the importance of international cooperation in science and technology and pointed out the principle of general opening of Horizon 2020. The keynote speaker, Mr. Mats Karlsson, Director of the World Bank's Center for Mediterranean Integration, focused his speech on the economic and social side of international cooperation in R&I.



*Opening session panel:
Mr. Epaminondas Christofilopoulos, Mr. Mats Karlsson,
Dr. Ariel Crozon, Dr. Jean Albergel, Dr. Elisabeth Lipiatou*

The first session “International Cooperation with developing and emerging countries – from FP7 to Horizon 2020” was the opportunity to discuss and share information about the future of international cooperation in Horizon 2020. It presented an overview on the current state of international cooperation in the FP7 and gave the main perspectives of international cooperation in Horizon 2020. Relying on relevant statistics displayed by Christian Hansen from Sweden, three INCO NCPs from Chile, South Africa and Egypt illustrated how they plan to support thirds countries participation in Horizon 2020. They pointed out that an institutional support to create a favorable environment for researchers is crucial to improve third countries participation. Dr. Elisabeth Lipiatou concluded with a presentation of the international dimension of Horizon 2020.

The geographical workshops emphasized experiences of cooperation from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC). These parallel sessions were the opportunity to tackle some cross-cutting issues, identifying best practices and needs for the coming programme. The LAC session underlined the promising growth of bilateral/bi-regional cooperation with EU and Members States. The MPC session highlighted the necessity of a renewed EU-MPC cooperation marked by a true partnership relationship, based on mutual benefits, co funding and co ownership.

The high-ranking panel discussion was chaired by Prof. Jean-Pierre Finance, Joint permanent representative of the IRD and the CPU (Universities) to Brussels, with international experts from different background: Dr. Marc Moroni (Deputy Head of the Strategy Service, French Ministry of Higher Education and Research), Dr. Indridi Benediktsson (Senior Policy Officer, EC), Ms. Almudena Carrero (Spanish delegate at the SFIC Task Force, MINECO), Mrs. Claudia Guerrero Monteza, (Director of International Technical Cooperation, SENACYT) and Dr. Khaled Elshuraydeh, (General Secretary of The Higher Council for Science and Technology). The panel emphasized the necessity to define a more strategic approach towards international cooperation in research and innovation in order to prepare the transition to Horizon 2020.



High-ranking panel discussion:

Dr. Marc Moroni, Dr. Indridi Benediktsson, Ms. Almudena Carrero Escribano, Mrs. Claudia Guerrero Monteza, Dr. Khaled Elshuraydeh

A new project INCONTACT 2020 will start in 2014. It will take over from the current project INCONTACT-One World. It will continue to support International Cooperation activities in Horizon 2020, and will organize two more INCO Conferences, one in Greece and a second in China.

For additional information regarding the 4th INCO Conference:

- Please visit the INCO-Wiki website: www.ncp-incontact.eu
- Contact: Mr. François Trémège, Europe Department of the Institute of Research for Development (IRD), France: francois.tremege@ird.fr; +33/ (0)4.91.99.93.73



Group picture of the 4th INCO Conference in Marseille

The Institute of Research for Development (IRD) - Marseille, France

The IRD is a French public research establishment reporting to the ministries responsible for Research and for Foreign Affairs - which addresses international development issues. The aims are to improve health, understand societal changes and protect the environment and natural resources, with a view to achieving the global Millennium Development Goals. IRD's staff is 2.346 including 842 researchers, with 43% of staff based in Southern countries. Through partnership-based research, training and innovation, it is present in more than fifty countries in Africa, the Mediterranean basin, Latin America and the French overseas territories. IRD' projects are jointly run with partners and are based on an interdisciplinary approach. They address questions vital for Southern countries, such as tropical diseases and disease of civilisation, the links between health and environment, climate change, water resources, food security, natural hazards, poverty, vulnerability and social inequality, migration and labour market trends. IRD also aims to ensure that knowledge is put to the service of the socio-economic development. IRD is involved as partner or coordinator in about 70 FP7 collaborative research projects.

INCONTACT - One World

INCONTACT - One World is the co-ordinating project of the INCO National Contact Points (NCPs) for international cooperation activities in FP7. The project aims precisely at supporting the international dimension of FP7, by stimulating closer cooperation between INCO NCPs and encouraging them to work together to improve the overall quality of the NCP services in the field of International Cooperation, by providing trainings and tools, and especially by organising the "INCO Conference" series. The INCO conferences goal is to draw specific attention to the international character of FP7, and to reinforce the participation of more researchers, from Africa, Latin America, Asia and the rest of the world. Four annual INCO conferences have been organized so far, in Greece, South Africa, Germany and France - with the participation of all the INCO NCPs aiming to give the opportunity for personal interaction, NCP professional training, and discussion of global science policy issues and presentation of research capacities from ICPC countries.

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