



# The Latin American and Caribbean Network of National Contact Points (LAC NCP)

*With the support of the Service Facility*

**NEWSLETTER**

**N°10**

**2021**

**FEBRUARY**



## Dear colleagues from Latin America and the Caribbean

It is a pleasure for the Latin American and Caribbean Network of National Contact Points (LAC NCP Network) to greet you in this new year that begins and share with you the first newsletter of the year 2021. As you know, our goal as a Network is to strengthen the capacities of the National Contact points of Latin America and the Caribbean, so that everyone is in the best conditions to disseminate, inform and assist researchers, public and private organizations, civil society associations, promoting their participation in the framework programs of the European Union.

This year begins the ninth Framework Program (FP9) called Horizon Europe. Because of the work we have been doing over the years, we know that Latin America and the Caribbean have an excellent innovative capacity that enables us to be very good partners in the various calls.

Our entire team is available to energize the network and increase the region's participation in the Horizon Europe Program, a challenge that we know we will meet by working together.

Claudia Romano Nuñez – NETWORK LAC NCP [Linkedin](#)

### NETWORK LAC NCP Team:

Maite Irazabal, Alejandro Quinteros, Matias Takessian, Graciela Morelli.

We invite you to follow us on our social networks:



[Linkedin](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Youtube](#)



[redlacncp@auci.gub.uy](mailto:redlacncp@auci.gub.uy)

## New Initiative of the European Union to promote Research and Innovation.



Horizon Europe is the ninth Framework Program (FP9) for Research and Innovation of the European Union for the period 2021-2027 and is the extension of the Horizon 2020 program.

It is the main initiative of the European Union for the promotion of research and innovation from the conceptual

phase to the introduction in the market, and serves as a complement to national and regional funding.

With the aim of strengthening the scientific and technological bases of the EU, promoting competitiveness and facing the great global challenges, Horizon Europe, proposes improvements in its design that will optimize its impact to achieve greater coherence between the three basic pillars that supports and objectives of the program.

The evolution in relation to Horizon 2020 program will be reflected in a renewed structure. Organizing around the three broad pillars will continue, but will be redesigned to achieve greater internal coherence and better alignment with the latest political priorities.

It envisages having a greater impact, through the creation of the new European Innovation Council, and greater openness through the strengthening of international cooperation, the reinforcement of the Open Science policy and a new approach and organization of the current European associations.

The changes and improvements in this structure are aimed at facilitating the achievement of the proposed objectives, making it more effective and helping it to generate greater social value and more economic benefits. Research development and innovation are the most important investments for the future of everything.

The focus of the calls for the first years of the new EU research program, Horizon Europe, will be the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, to lay the foundations for a more sustainable and resilient EU that is prepared for future health emergencies.

The first call for the six themes, scheduled to open on April 22, 2021, will cover disease prevention, the environment and health, address major diseases, innovate health systems, develop digital health tools and promote a competitive European healthcare industry.

The Commission hopes to foster synergies between health research in Horizon Europe and EU programs that aim to foster the uptake of research results, such as EU4Health, Digital Europe and the structural funds.

In 2022, the Commission will set aside 914.3 million euros for health research, according to the leaked document. The money will be distributed in nine calls, many of which will complement the projects that will be selected for funding this year, and two public-private partnerships.

Most of the 2022 calls are scheduled to start on October 6, 2021. Some will be two-stage, meaning that applicants will be asked to submit short applications by February 1, 2022 and, if successful, they will be asked to write a complete proposal before September 6, 2022. They will also be calls for a single stage, whose applications must be submitted before April 21, 2022.

### Missions



It will focus on 5 areas:

- 1) Adaptation to climate change, including societal transformation.
- 2) Cancer
- 3) Climate-Neutral and Smart cities
- 4) Healthy oceans, seas, coastals and inland waters
- 5) Soil health and food



### **Mission objectives for 2030:**

1. Prepare Europe to deal with climate change; accelerate the transition to a healthy and prosperous future within safe planetary limits; and expand solutions for resilience that unleashes social transformations.
2. Save more than 3 million lives and help them live longer and better. It aims to achieve a deep understanding of cancer, improve prevention, improve the diagnosis and treatment, supporting the quality of life of all people exposed to cancer and ensuring equitable access to the above throughout Europe.
3. Support, promote and showcase 100 European cities in their systemic transformation towards climate neutrality by 2030 and turn these cities into centers of experimentation and innovation.
4. Clean fresh and marine waters, restore degraded ecosystems and habitats, and decarbonize the blue economy to sustainably harness the essential goods and services they provide.
5. At least 75% of all soils in the EU are healthy and capable of providing the essential services we depend on for healthy food, people, nature and climate.

## The Call for the European Green Deal received a large number of proposals under the Horizon 2020 Program<sup>1</sup>



On January 27, 2021, the European Commission received 1,550 proposals for the Call for the Green Deal, a program that had a budget of 1,000 million euros. The huge number of proposals submitted demonstrates an impressive response from the European Research Community and the rest of the world.

Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: *“The great interest in this latest Horizon 2020 call shows the eagerness of research teams in the EU and beyond to find solutions that address the climate crisis, restore and preserve our ecosystems and protect our societies, propelling them towards a sustainable recovery. I look forward to your discoveries and innovations”.*

Eligible proposals will now be evaluated by independent expert panels; the first selected projects will start in autumn 2021.

The projects will offer clear and tangible solutions in eight areas corresponding to the priorities of the Green Deal and in two horizontal areas: “strengthening knowledge” and “empowering citizens”.

---

<sup>1</sup> European Commission “European Green Deal Call raises high number of proposals under Horizon 2020”, February 1, 2021, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/european-green-deal-call-raises-high-number-proposals-under-horizon2020-2021-feb-01\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/european-green-deal-call-raises-high-number-proposals-under-horizon2020-2021-feb-01_en)

In each area of the Green Deal Calls, the following numbers of proposals were received:

<b>Area</b>	<b>Number of Proposals</b>
<b>Increasing climate ambition</b>	101
<b>Clean, affordable and secure energy</b>	256
<b>Industry for a clean and circular economy</b>	108
<b>Energy and resource efficient buildings</b>	115
<b>Sustainable and smart mobility</b>	44
<b>Farm to fork</b>	260
<b>Biodiversity and ecosystems</b>	72
<b>Zero-pollution, toxic-free environments</b>	115
<b>Strengthening knowledge</b>	106
<b>Empowering Citizens</b>	373
<b>Total</b>	<b>1550</b>

Source: European Commission, February 1, 2021

## CELAC-EU Research Infrastructures Working Group

At the sixth meeting of Senior Officials on Science and Technology (SOM) of the joint EU-CELAC initiative on Research and Innovation (JIRI) in 2017, the need to guarantee a strategic regional association in research and innovation through the development of the Area was confirmed. EU-CELAC Research Joint. For which, the Senior Officials committed to the dimension of research infrastructures as one of the three strategic pillars of this Common Research Area (CRA).

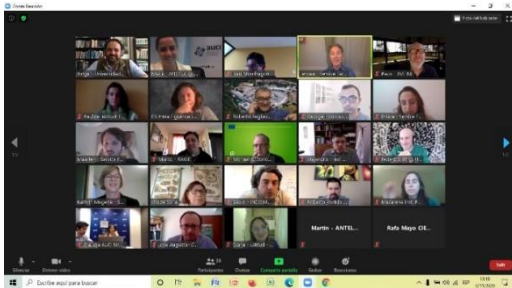
Thus, in the same year, the **CELAC-EU Research Infrastructures Working Group** was formed, chaired by the European Union Research and Innovation Directorate (EC-RTD) and Dr. Fernando Amestoy, Executive Director of the Science Park and Tecnológico de Pando, Uruguay, nominated by the Presidency of CELAC to represent the member countries and approved by the consensus of all representatives.



Likewise, the Group works together with the project ResInfra, which aims to show the viability of the EU-CELAC RI collaboration through existing examples thanks to the development of four pilots in different domains scientists who are linked to some infrastructure of Existing research: INSTRUMENT-ERIC, LIFEWATCH-ERIC, ERIHS and RICAP.

The general objective of this working group is to align and harmonize the coordination of (bi) regional policies and share good practices in the development of policies and in the mapping of research infrastructures, in order to achieve the best use of those available. intra and extra regionally.

The specific objectives are: to guarantee bi-regional coordination of policies, exchange good practices in the preparation of these and the mapping of research infrastructures, agree on priority areas of work.



The year 2020 was very active for the group, without prejudice to the COVID-19 pandemic, several events were held. During the months of October and November, five cooperation workshops were held between leading research infrastructures in the areas of health, energy, biodiversity and climate change, food security and emerging technologies from both regions.

These workshops organized by the Working Group and had the participation of 40 research infrastructures and more than 80 participants. One of their priorities was to establish discussions between the main actors of the research infrastructures and the policy makers of both regions in order to strengthen and advance a bi-regional collaboration for research infrastructures and define which are the priorities of that collaboration.



Some of the conclusions of the EU-CELAC RI Cooperation Workshops are: Some of the conclusions of the EU-CELAC RI Cooperation Workshops are:

- 1) Make more efforts to communicate the catalog of services and research carried out by Research Infrastructures in the LAC and EU countries, it is important
- 2) Generate tools that allow mobility and exchange of personnel between researchers from both regions and that facilitate the contact between the partners of the research infrastructures of both regions and
- 3) Increase participation in the EU framework program, among others.



On November 19, the sixth meeting of the EU-LAC Working Group on Research Infrastructures was held. The delegates of the working group discussed the results of the JIRI-SOM and of the five previously mentioned cooperation workshops. 13 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean and 10 member

states of the European Union participated in this meeting.

The most important results of it were:

- 1) Recognition of the achievements of the five EU-LAC thematic tandems in the preparation and implementation of the Cooperation Workshops.
- 2) Discuss the Strategic Roadmap for the implementation of the Brussels Declaration and the EU-CELAC Action Plan on science, technology and innovation, presented during the JIRI-SOM on October 30, 2020, among others.

## Informative Webinar on Marie Skłodowska Actions in Horizon Europe



This activity is part of the  
Virtual  
II Latin America  
MCAA Conference

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions  
**INFORMATION  
SESSION**

Programme & Registration:  
[mcaabrazil.org/latam21](http://mcaabrazil.org/latam21)

**New MSCA:**  
*What's in it for mobile  
researchers & institutions?*

**16 March 2021**  
8:30 MEX 11:30 AR, BR, CL  
9:30 CO 15:30 CET

Organisation



We invite you to participate in the informative Webinar event called "**New Actions Marie Skłodowska Curie- What's in for Mobility for Researchers and Institutions?**" It will be held on **March 16, 2021**, and will aim to inform about the Marie Skłodowska Actions (MSCA) in the new Horizon Europe Program.

It is an excellent opportunity to learn how international researchers and institutions can benefit from the MSCA to carry out a PhD, a Post-doctorate or a Research and Innovation project that includes various European and International Institutions.

Likewise, researchers from Latin America and the Caribbean who obtained funds from the MSCA will share their experience and advice with the audience..

**We share with you the link to register: <http://bit.ly/MSCAinfosession2021>**

## ENRICH in LAC Webinar “Food-Water-Energy: Nexus Approaches for Sustainable Development and Improved Living Standards”

**Food-Water-Energy: Nexus Approaches for Sustainable Development and Improved Living Standards**

**Webinar**

Date: March 4, 2021  
 Time: 15.30-17:00 CET;  
 11.30-13:00 (Brasilia, Montevideo, Buenos Aires)

“ In this Webinar, participants from Europe and Latin America will gain knowledge and understanding of the Food-Water-Energy Nexus, its characteristics, as well as its tool for how to address the city solutions in innovative ways with concrete examples. ”

Registration Link:  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DE6kl\\_pZRuKeSxL6Br6gYA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DE6kl_pZRuKeSxL6Br6gYA)  
 Livestream on Youtube:  
<https://youtu.be/eEUAJw5MMLs>

in cooperation with  
 URBAN EUROPE



We invite you to participate in the ENRICH in LAC WEBINAR called “**Food-Water-Energy: Nexus Approaches for Sustainable Development and Improved Living Standards**”. It will be held on March 4, 2021 at 15.30-17:00 CET; 11.30-13:00 (Brasilia, Montevideo, Buenos Aires).

In this Webinar, participants from Europe and Latin America will gain knowledge and understanding of the Food-Water-Energy Nexus, its characteristics, as well as its tool for how to address the city solutions in innovative ways with concrete examples.

**We share with you the link to register:**  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DE6kl\\_pZRuKeSxL6Br6gYA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DE6kl_pZRuKeSxL6Br6gYA)

The Webinar will also be live streamed in ENRICH in Brazil's YouTube Channel. Here you can find the link for YouTube streaming: <https://youtu.be/eEUAJw5MMLs>



## INTERVIEWS

**This section seeks to publicize relevant actors, institutions and projects for the promotion of the Horizon 2020 Program and Horizon Europe, in particular for Latin America and the Caribbean.**

**In this opportunity we summoned Anna Wiśniewska, Coordinator of the Project MSCA NCPs Net4Mobility+ European mission.**





**Anna Wiśniewska**

The Net4Mobility+ project activities are addressed to all of us the officially nominated Marie Skłodowska-Curie National Contact Points located on all continents. Our truly international network with almost 200 devoted staff is usually the first face-to-face contact point where interested actors get information, first explanation and first impression of the MSCA programme offering various funding opportunities. NCPs helping their scientific and innovation communities have become an indispensable element of research and innovation programmes of the European Union.

Thus, the N4M+ offers you as the MSCA NCPs various outcomes that have been developed by 25 partners from Europe and beyond. The project is coordinated by the Polish NCP located in the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research, Polish Academy of Sciences. The activities that are specifically addressed to the NCPs of the CELAC countries are under responsibility of our colleagues from the Ministry of Education and Culture, Uruguay, and Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology.

After 3 years of implementation the project should have ended in February 2021. However, like many other projects funded by Horizon 2020, it has been extended for another 6 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, until August 2021, it is acting as a bridge between two subsequent EU programmes - Horizon 2020 (2014 - 2020) and Horizon Europe (2021-2027) supporting NCPs for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in this transition period. Various HE activities linked to the new programme are currently being planned and developed. Soon all the MSCA NCPs will be informed about them and invited to take part.



The basic and easily accessible source of what is happening in the project is its website. The information provided in the section titled MSCA NCPs will help you choose those activities that may be useful in your daily work as NCP. Others such as call statistics and success stories you can be downloaded directly from the website. For instance, the trainings we organised on transferable skills and cross-cutting issues are still useful and valid in Horizon Europe. However, materials from these project events - presentations and methods or tips on how to conduct online training – so popular today - can be found on CIRCABC (project page titled Intranet). Access to this European Commission's Communication and Information Resource Centre is provided by the EC NCPs' coordinator once your role as the MSCA NCPs is officially confirmed to the EC.

As I mentioned before, a lot of results have been delivered during the last 3 years. However, especially for new NCPs it can be quite a challenge to learn all the details of the MSCA program. Even more so because still for some time we will be receiving questions not only about the rules of the new program, but also about how to implement projects funded in Horizon 2020. Therefore, now a few words about the tools, which I invite everyone to use:

Google Group is an internal communication platform for all MSCA NCPs moderated by experienced colleagues from several countries. It serves us for asking different kinds of questions, for example how to interpret the MSCA rules to make sure that the answer for our client is correct. This platform has been with us for over 10 years and is the most appreciated and used tool. It is maintained by the coordinators of subsequent projects dedicated to the MSCA NCPs.

Newcomers Welcome Package available on CIRCABC and sent by the N4M+ coordinator via email to every new NCP. It provides information on how the NCPs operate, what the project offers, as well as basic MSCA data and various sources of information.

Promotional Campaign Guidelines were elaborated based on real examples and best practices shared by experienced NCPs to raise awareness about MSCA. It provides guidance for delivering our services and supporting applicants in submitting proposals to MSCA calls. Even though it focuses on widening countries' needs, it's a good source of practical information on how to deliver successful promotion in any country. It may be obtained from the project website under the Widening Countries section.

MSCA Frequently Asked Question Blog is based on questions and answers raised in the MSCA NCP Google Group.. This blog has existed for several years and contains the "MSCA NCP" knowledge. It is a very good tool to help you find answers to clients' questions that cannot necessarily be found in the official documents. It's available on the project website as FAQ.



Social Media package consists of Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and a YouTube Channel for the dissemination and promotion of the project outcomes and news related to the MSCA Actions. So please, make sure you follow these platforms, share the N4M+ messages on your own channel or forward the information to your clients.

MSCA Success Stories on different actions showing how a MSCA project can make a difference to a research career or a research group. They highlight also the work of the MSCA NCPs in Europe and beyond. They may be used to promote MSCA during your events and published on your website in order to promote the programme.

And finally, the project banner which is a visual element of the promotion of the project, MSCA NCP work and outcomes prepared directly for the scientific and innovation communities. You may publish it on your national website together with the link to the project page named Scientific Community.

As you can see from the above, the MSCA NCPs network supports its members in various ways and has a lot to go for and. Maybe that's why we sometimes call the network a family. A family where each member's voice matters. Therefore, I invite each NCP to share with us your ideas and needs as well as to propose activities that could be implemented in the next MSCA NCP project the successor of Net4Mobility+. We are waiting for your suggestions until the end of February.



## Latin American and Caribbean Network of National Contact Points

The Latin American and Caribbean Network of National Contact Points (LAC NCP Network) is made up of all the National Contact Points officially designated by the CELAC States through their main competent bodies in Science, Technology and Innovation or the Ministries of Foreign Affairs or their Chancelleries, which have been recognized by the European Commission through their official appointment.

The objective of the LAC NCP Network is to promote and increase the participation of Researchers, Research Centers and Institutions in Horizon Europe program, in order to democratize access opportunities among the different countries of the region.



Currently, the Network has 386 National Contact Points (NCP) in the 22 thematic areas of the H2020 Program, an increase of 23 NCP compared to 2019.

By virtue of the work carried out by the team that makes up the Network Office during 2020, a total of 66 new National Points were designated in the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Marteen, Uruguay, thus increasing and consolidating the Network in

Latin America and the Caribbean.

Our team updates the list of NCPs on a bi-monthly basis.

In 2020, the LAC NCP Network held 19 training sessions for the National Contact Points, in which the Horizon 2020 Program, the Green Pact and the work carried out by the Network were disseminated; They had the participation of 2,970 people between National Contact Points, Researchers, Scientists and Authorities.

In January and February, 3 new NCPs were appointed in Mexico, 2 in Brazil, 2 in Ecuador, 1 in Colombia, and the First Training Session was held at the National Points of Ecuador.





## Designation Process for National Contact Points

The National Contact Points (NCPs) are professionals responsible for offering advice and information to all those interested in participating in research and innovation projects of the Framework Programs of the European Commission, currently governed by the Horizon Europe 2021-2027 Program.

Their profile is technical and they are in charge of:

- Disseminate and inform about the funding opportunities of the Horizon Europe program among the research community in your country
- Advise and assist potential applicants in the preparation, presentation and monitoring of their proposal
- Offer support during project execution

Each country can designate them for each of the areas of the Horizon 2020 Program according to their national priorities. It is possible that for some priority areas the authorities designate two or more NCPs.

The list of all NCPs can be found in the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national\\_contact\\_points.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html).

To officially designate National Contact Points or make changes in the Funding & Tenders Portal of the European Commission, the following procedure must be carried out:

- 1) Letter of official designation: it is a letter headed and signed by a relevant national authority where it is specified who and for what area is being designated and / or removed.

This letter should be addressed to Mr. Jean-Eric PAQUET, Director General of the DG for Research and Innovation since April 2018. It is desirable that it be written in English.

Two Excel spreadsheets:

- 2) 1 Excel spreadsheet with designations: there is a model sheet (editable Excel which can be requested by mail) that details the areas of the Program and the NCPs that cover them. It should reflect the NCPs already listed in the Funding & Tenders Portal along with the changes highlighted in yellow. Yellow highlighting should be used for



data modifications and new designations, and yellow highlighting and strikethrough should be used for deletions.

3) 1 clean Excel spreadsheet with designations: save a clean “clear” Excel spreadsheet, which should contain only the data of the new designations and the NCPs that were not removed. It is the definitive list of NCP.

Note that changes in the information of the NCP already designated such as telephone numbers, addresses, institutions, etc., do not need to be announced in the official appointment letter, they should simply be highlighted in the Excel spreadsheet.

4) Before sending the information to RTD-NCP-NOMINATIONS it is important to make sure that the previous steps have been completed correctly.

5) Send an e-mail with the official appointment letter and the attached Excel spreadsheet to [RTD-NCP-NOMINATIONS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-NCP-NOMINATIONS@ec.europa.eu); CC: [redlacncp@auci.gub.uy](mailto:redlacncp@auci.gub.uy)

For Latin America and the Caribbean, the region has the LAC NCP Network, who can provide advice. If you have any questions, you can contact the Red LAC NCP team at [redlacncp@auci.gub.uy](mailto:redlacncp@auci.gub.uy)

## Thematic Networks

We invite you to upload the profiles of your institutions in the thematic networks, they are a fundamental tool to find partners, by virtue of offering association sessions during events and guides to partner search platforms, analysis of the results of evaluation of participation in the calls for Horizon 2020, information, events in all aspects of the Horizon 2020 Program and Horizon Europe.

 <p><a href="#">Search Service</a> <a href="#">Nanotecnology partners</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Space Network</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Security Network</a></p>
 <p><a href="#">Transport Network</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Energy Network</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Science with and for society</a></p>
 <p><a href="#">Health Network</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Society Network</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Information Technology Network</a></p>
 <p><a href="#">Environment Network</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">MSCA Network</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Agriculture safety Network</a></p>



## REFERENCE MATERIAL

**With the support of the European Commission, through the Alcue Net project, guides and manuals were produced for researchers and institutions for collaborative projects, Marie Skłodowska Curie**



Below we share the Guide for the establishment of Liaison Offices with the European Union in Latin America and the Caribbean, Manual of participation in the Framework Program for Research and Innovation of the European Union, Guide for the successful participation of Latin American and Caribbean Institutions in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

	<p><a href="#"><u>Guide for the establishment of Liaison Offices with the European Union in Latin America and the Caribbean.</u></a></p>		<p><a href="#"><u>Manual for participation in the Framework Program for Research and Innovation of the European Union</u></a></p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>Guide for the successful participation of Latin American and Caribbean INSTITUTIONS in the MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS.</u></a></p>		<p><a href="#"><u>Guide for the successful participation of Latin American and Caribbean RESEARCHERS in MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS</u></a></p>

## Videos



Below we share support material to develop Horizon 2020 projects



General information about Horizon Europe

[Link](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CimJI88c4fE>



Intellectual Property in Horizon 2020

[Link](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjPI-dprQbk>



European Research and Innovation Conference

[Link](#)

<https://research-innovation-days-conference.online/hubs/green-deal>



Horizon Europe

[Link](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCHtWPbKaO4>



Horizon Europe Presentation Day in Spain

[Link Day 1](#)

[Link Day 2](#)

[https://eventos.cdti.es/ES/PresentacionHorizonteEuropa/Retransmission\\_1](https://eventos.cdti.es/ES/PresentacionHorizonteEuropa/Retransmission_1)

[https://eventos.cdti.es/ES/PresentacionHorizonteEuropa/Retransmission\\_2](https://eventos.cdti.es/ES/PresentacionHorizonteEuropa/Retransmission_2)