



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

*With the support of the Service Facility*

**NEWSLETTER**

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## 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 and wish that all stay very well.

In this opportunity, we would like to share with you the newsletter corresponding to the months of March - April. As you know, our objective 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.

From the work we have been doing over the years, we know that Latin America and the Caribbean have excellent innovative capacity that enables us to be very good "partners" in the different calls for European Union programs.

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 – LAC NCP Network [Linkedin](#)

### LAC NCP Network Team:

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

We invite you to follow us on our social networks:



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

## Launch of the Horizon Europe Program for Latin America and the Caribbean

On March 23, the First Regional Seminar called "Horizon Europe: Opportunities of the new Framework Program of the European Union" was held. The seminar was organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Network of National Contact Points (LAC NCP Network), the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) and the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI).



The main objectives of the seminar were disseminate and promote the main guidelines of the Horizon Europe program for Researchers, Institutions, authorities and general public in Latin America and the Caribbean; in order to strengthen the scientific and technological foundations to face global challenges.



The seminar featured a presentation by Almudena Carrero Escribano, head of the International Projects Office of the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology; and Claudia Romano, Manager of the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation and

Coordinator of the LAC NCP Network.

More than 600 researchers, institutions, national contact points and companies from 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries participated in the event.

We share with you the link to access the recording of the Seminar: ["Horizon Europe: Opportunities of the new Framework Program of the European Union"](#)

## EU-LAC ResInfra Project

Within the framework of the Horizon 2020 Program, the EU-LAC ResInfra project has been running for exactly one year. Based on promoting dialogue and the exchange of experiences for the coordination of public administrations and funding agencies for research, innovation and research infrastructures on both sides of the Atlantic. Aiming to enhance bi-regional collaboration between European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean countries (EU-LAC) regarding research infrastructures.



The Project consortium is coordinated by the Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain who have the support of the Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT). It is made up of 17 partners, Ministries, Funding Agencies and Research Infrastructures from 13 EU and LAC countries (Germany, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Spain, Finland, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom and Uruguay).

The proposed actions are aligned with the strategic approach of the Working Group created in 2017 by senior officials of the EU and the CELAC countries (SOM EU-CELAC) for the development of the research infrastructure pillar of the Initiative. Joint Research and Innovation EU-CELAC (JIRI EU-CELAC). This has been recognized in the Strategic Roadmap 2021-2023 for the application of the Brussels Declaration and the EU-CELAC Action Plan on Science, Technology and Innovation as a result of the Eighth Meeting of Senior Science and Technology Officials held on October 30, 2020.





ResInfra analyzes the situation of research infrastructures in LAC countries and supports the identification of priorities for regional and bi-regional cooperation; promotes the exchange of good practices between the EU and CELAC in strategic aspects relying on the procedures developed within the

framework of the European Strategic Research Infrastructure Forum (ESFRI). The project supports the SOM EU-CELAC Infrastructure Working Group for the establishment of a stable framework for collaboration, and will launch joint actions that will promote human capital development, capacity building, governance and management of research infrastructures.

EU-LAC ResInfra will serve its partners to strengthen their public policies and improve the common research area through research infrastructures, give visibility to European research infrastructures and promote international collaboration in the EU-LAC region.

To subscribe to the newsletter we share with you the link of the page: <https://resinfra-eulac.eu>

We invite everyone to follow the project on their social networks:



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## Call for New Projects

### **Launch of EC HORIZON-INFRA-2021-EMERGENCY FUNDING: Research and Innovation vs. COVID**

The European Commission has launched its first emergency fund under Horizon Europe. With a budget of 123 million euros, the calls included in this fund seek to complement the actions carried out so far in the fight against COVID-19, such as research and development of vaccines and treatments, providing the EC with knowledge and tools to prevent and respond to the impact of COVID.

The different calls, opened for the submission of proposals on April 15 and with a deadline of May 6, 2021, range from the development of fair and open data sharing instruments, vaccines & therapeutical clinical trials to research infrastructure services for rapid research responses to COVID-19.

Research infrastructures play an important role in this emergency fund through the call HORIZON-INFRA-2021-EMERGENCY-02: Research infrastructure services for rapid research responses to COVID-19 and other infectious disease epidemics. This call involves research infrastructures in the prevention and fight against COVID and expects to obtain proposals that enhance EU capacity to identify, characterize and mitigate the effects of COVID-19 virus variants of concern and future emerging pathogens, reinforce RI capacity to provide at scale and across the EU services to support excellent research, increase society's long-term and consist problem-solving capacity and evidence-based policy making and provide new discoveries and knowledge breakthroughs enabled by access provision to the best and in some cases unique state-of-the-art RIs.

For more information on this call and submission of proposals, visit the webpage of EC funding & tender opportunities: <https://resinfra-eulac.eu/news/launch-of-ec-horizon-infra-2021-emergency-funding-research-and-innovation-vs-covid/>



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## **The appeal of the ERC European Research Council: Calls that stand out in the funding landscape**

**The road to an ERC grant is long, and your application process requires thinking, learning, writing, and creating. Along the way, you will need to have a promising scientific track record, develop a proposal and, for those shortlisted, prepare for the interview.**

Contribution of the Madri+d Foundation for Knowledge - Luciana Ayciriex<sup>1</sup>

Grants from the European Research Council (ERC) stand out and are awarded solely on the basis of “excellence” in a joint evaluation of the project and the applicant.



### **European Research Council**

The road to an ERC grant is long and your application process requires learning, writing and creating. Along the way you will need to have a promising scientific track record, develop a proposal and for those shortlisted prepare for the interview.

ERC grants are awarded through open calls to projects led by researchers both in the initiation phase and already consolidated who work in Europe or move here, regardless of their origin, based on scientific excellence as the sole selection criteria.

These calls are framed within Pillar 1 of "Excellent Science" of the new and ambitious Framework Program for Research and Innovation of the European Union for the period 2021-2027: Horizon Europe. This Pillar aims to promote scientific excellence, create and disseminate knowledge and attract research talent to the European space.

**It is endowed with 23,000 million euros distributed in 3 large areas:**

- European Research Council (64% of funds)
- Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (27% of funds)
- Research Infrastructures (9% of funds)

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<sup>1</sup> Luciana Ayciriex: Graduate in International Relations with a Master's in International Cooperation and Management of Public Policies, Programs and Development Projects. I have professional experience of more than 15 years in the management of international cooperation and management of interdisciplinary programs and projects with the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean.



ERC funding is 16,000 million euros and constitutes 17% of the total budget of Horizon Europe

General characteristics of the ERC

- Open to researchers from all over the world.
- Long-term individual projects.
- No thematic priorities. Applications can be made in any field of research.
- Frontier research, high risk / high benefit in any scientific field.
- Unique evaluation criteria: scientific excellence of the research proposal and the main researcher.
- Evaluation by scientists of high international prestige.
- Offers research staff independence, recognition and visibility.

The “bottom-up” approach of the ERC based on the initiative of the researcher allows them to identify new opportunities and directions in each field of research. This approach ensures that funds are channeled into promising new areas of research with a greater degree of flexibility.

### **Structure of the ERC**

**Scientific Council (Scientific Council- ScC).** It is the key body of the ERC and is made up of 22 eminent scientists and academics, appointed by the European Commission based on the recommendations of an identification committee, also made up of scientists. The scientific council determines the ERC's strategy, as well as its specific programs. Its president is in turn the president of the ERC (Jean-Pierre Bourguignon is the current President). The mandate of the members of the Scientific Council is limited to 4 years, renewable once.

**ERC Executive Agency (ERC Executive Agency- ERCEA).** Is in charge of the implementation of the ERC strategy established by the Scientific Council and is in charge of the daily administration of the grants (Waldemar Kütt is current Director).





## ERC financing schemes

The continuity of the previous Horizon 2020 program is maintained.

**ERC Starting Grant (StG):** grants of up to € 1.5 million over 5 years for promising researchers with 2-7 years of post-PhD experience. You must dedicate at least 50% of your time to the project.

**ERC Consolidator (CoG):** grants of up to € 2 million over 5 years for excellent researchers with 7 to 12 years of experience after the PhD. You must dedicate at least 40% of your time to the project.

**ERC Advanced (AdG):** grants of up to € 2.5 million over 5 years for established research leaders with a recognized track record of research achievements (last 10 years of research career). You must dedicate at least 30% of your time to the project.

**ERC Synergy (SyG):** grants of up to € 10 million over 6 years to tackle ambitious research that can only be answered through the coordinated work of a small group of 2-4 principal investigators.

## **Collaboration between Latin America Bioimaging and Global Bioimaging: shared experiences, common understandings and mutual support.**

Are you part of the Bioimaging community and are interested to connect with peers in Latin America and globally? Latin America Bioimaging and Global Bioimaging offer you the opportunity to do so!



Global Bioimaging (founded 2015) brings together an international network of imaging infrastructures and communities in Europe, Australia, Canada, India, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, the USA and Latin America.

Recognizing that scientific, technical and data challenges are universal and not restricted by geographical boundaries, Global Bioimaging supports imaging facility managers and technical staff, scientists and science policy makers from around the globe to join forces and build capacity internationally. It provides a unique opportunity for international discussion and cooperation to tackle the practical challenges as well as the strategic questions linked to operating open-access infrastructures for cutting-edge imaging technologies in the life sciences. It does so by organizing key activities such as annual Exchange of Experience workshops, training events and staff exchange opportunities to build capacity in imaging at a global level.

Collaboration with Global Bioimaging has supported nascent but strengthening efforts to link bioimaging communities in Latin America. For Mexico's National Laboratory for Advanced Microscopy, connecting to the global community helped to place local issues into a much wider context, to identify commonalities (and differences) and devise guidelines and pathways towards positive development.

This experience helped catalyse the ongoing UruMex microscopy project, bilaterally funded by Uruguayan and Mexican Foreign Ministries, which has brought together the microscopy communities in each country, supported bioimaging center development, and exploits research infrastructure's capabilities to support social development through all levels of their respective science communities. One of its final objectives, brought forward timewise by the pandemic conditions, is the establishment of Latin America Bioimaging, which seeks to unite the bioimaging communities across the region, starting with an introductory symposium in Spring 2021. With initial interest



shown by key participants in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay, the aim is to build an inclusive, diverse and representative platform for supporting and promoting the interests of bioimaging researchers and research infrastructures from across the entire Latin America region.

If as an individual scientist or as a core facility in Latin America and you are interested to learn more and be part of the story, please get in touch with Chris Wood, Leonel Malacrida or Andres Kamaid at [latambioimaging@gmail.com](mailto:latambioimaging@gmail.com)

## Latin America - Europe Symposium on Research Infrastructures



We invite you to participate in the Latin America-Europe Symposium on Research Infrastructures. It will be held from June 15 to 17, 2021, and will aim to inform about the Marie Skłodowska Actions (MSCA) in the new Horizon Europe Program.

International cooperation in science and technology is an important part of addressing major global issues like climate change, infectious disease, food security, and natural disasters. Research infrastructures (RIs) are organisations that enable scientists to use specific facilities, resources, and expertise to enable and accelerate scientific achievements, overcome boundaries, train highly skilled specialists, and promote sustainable research. Fostering RI partnerships across borders has the potential to improve the efficiency and quality of research to tackle the many challenges faced by society today.

The virtual three-day symposium brings together delegates from Latin American and European research infrastructures (RIs), science policy organisation and research institutions to discuss opportunities and challenges for RI cooperation between Latin America and Europe.

We hope to raise awareness of individual RIs, to identify measures to mitigate current challenges of bi-regional cooperation between RIs, to initiate new and strengthening existing collaborations, and to initiate networks in a sustainable way so that all stakeholders benefit. We invite all researchers who have an interest in learning more about research infrastructures and the research opportunities they offer to scientists. The participation in this event is for free, but registration is required.

This symposium is organised as part of the RI-VIS project, a Horizon 2020-funded project to increase the visibility and raise awareness of European RIs to new communities beyond Europe, and the EU-LAC ResInfra project, a Horizon 2020-funded project which strives towards a new EU-LAC partnership in Research Infrastructures.

We share with you the link to register: <https://ri-vis.eu/events/ri-vis-latin-america---europe-symposium-1>



## 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)



## 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



MSCA under Horizon Europe

[Link](#)

[https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/events/msca-under-horizon-europe-information-event\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/events/msca-under-horizon-europe-information-event_en)



New Actions Marie Skłodowska Curie- What's in for Mobility for Researchers and Institutions?

[Link](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qV-1KCga49A&t=2234s>



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)



Information about Horizon Europe

[Link](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOBiEgOZ\\_sY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOBiEgOZ_sY)