



Argentinean Bureau for Enhancing Cooperation with the European Community in the Science, Technology and Innovation Area. Phase II. National Directorate of International Relations, Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT)

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Launching of a Program to Strengthen Competitiveness of SMEs and Job Creation in Argentina



The Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT), Dr. Lino Baraño signed with the Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Ambassador Alfonso Diez Torres, the Cooperation Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Henning Reinman, and the National Directress Of International Relations, Ing. Agueda Menvielle, an agreement to implement the "Program for Strengthening the Competitiveness of SMEs and Job Creation in Argentina." Under this agreement 19,600,000 million Euros will be allocated to fund several activities to introduce new technologies in industries and encourage the creation of innovation-based companies in the area of Nanotechnology. The Programme shall have a four-year duration and shall focus on strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs through the use of nanotechnology in 4 industries: Metal mechanics, Agro-Food, Health and Electronics.

62nd Annual Meeting of the Max Planck Society

The Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, Dr. Lino Baraño, participated as keynote speaker at the closing of the



62nd annual meeting of the Max Planck Society, together with the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the president of the Max Planck Society, Peter Gruss. The ceremony was held at the headquarters of Telecom Italia in Berlin as part of the celebrations for 100 years of the Company. During his visit to Germany, the Minister Baraño met the Argentinean scientific community located in that country. This meeting aimed to strengthen the vinculation networks with the Argentines living abroad. Later this year, the Max Planck Society will open its first school in Latin America. The same will be located at the Argentina's Scientific and Technological Pole, located in the

neighbourhood of Palermo and its opening will count with special guests from Germany.

Argentinean NCPs abroad

Looking for synergies for SMEs

Dr. José María Louzao, Argentinean NCP for SMEs, travelled to Italy and Spain (Madrid, Galicia and the Basque Country) to internalize and share experiences with other European NCPs, poles and clusters in the area of ICT, among other topics, with the intention of encouraging cooperation with local enterprises.

In Spain specifically, meetings were held with representatives of CDTI, CONETIC and Fundación Madri+d, the latter expressed the willingness to monitor the presentation of a future Argentinean consortium to participate in the European Enterprise Network (EEN). In the Basque Country, he met with representatives of Tecnalia, which encompasses all the R & D institutions in the region, with 1500 employees and a participation of a total of 200 projects within the European Union, also showing interest to initiate future joint research projects.

ICT Events in Budapest

Argentina, through the ICT NCP, Lic. Rosa Wachenchauer, was present at the thematic meetings held on May 19 and 20 in Budapest, Hungary, coordinated by the Directorate General for Information Society and Media of the European Commission. With over 1600 delegates from around the world, the event ICT Proposers' Day offered opportunities to make contacts focused on the creation of consortia for ICT calls 8 and 9. In this sense, we emphasize the activities organized by the Ideal-ist Network.

NanoForum 2011

From 30 May to 1 June 2011 the NanoForum 2011 - European Nanotechnology Gateway was held in Budapest, Hungary. Dr. Félix Requejo, Argentinean Nanotechnology NCP, attended the event organized by the European Commission and was also invited to become a member of a Nanotechnology network in the European Union.

The NanoForum originally started as a project funded by the Fifth Framework Programme (5FP). Since July 2007, it is managed as a European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG), which gives the legal framework and the possibility of contacting other entities, as well as allowing public tenders and new projects funded by the EU.



Energy Info Days

The recently appointed Argentinean Energy NCP, Ing. Jorge Barral, on July 7 attended the Informative Meeting on FP7 Energy Research, organized by the European Commission in Brussels where they presented in detail the areas of the new calls to be published officially on July 20. Eng. Barral also attended on July 11 and 12 the Info Days of the FP7 calls on private-public partnerships in "energy-efficient buildings, the factories of the green cars of the future".

News for researchers and entrepreneur mobility

People Programme

The People Programme provides support for the mobility of researchers, entrepreneurs and practitioners, both within the European Union and at the international level. It is implemented through a series of Marie Curie actions, providing research fellowships, technical training and other measures to develop their skills and competences throughout their professional careers.

For more information please visit ABEST and CORDIS websites



2011 COST Call

Argentine and European researchers participating in COST actions, may apply for calls to receive funding for scientific exchanges. COST is a multilateral program involving the 27 EU countries plus Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Croatia, Macedonia, Turkey, Serbia and Israel. It is a program that funds I) Research Networks or II) Strategic/exploration Workshops on a specific subject, aiming at sharing experiences and knowledge between researchers in Europe and Third Countries. The program is open for the participation by third countries as "non-COST countries." This means that they can participate in all activities, but do not receive financial support from the program.

That is why in 2009, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MINCyT) through its National Directorate of International Relations, signed the first Mutual Cooperation Agreement in Latin America (and fourth in the world with Australia, New Zealand and South Africa). This agreement allows the Argentinean participants to gain access to local funding for short-term scientific missions and, conversely, European participants can carry out such missions in Argentina. Those interested in this action must submit a working plan that includes the exchange of the European peer/s to Argentina.

For more information on COST actions for Argentina, contact Inés Menvielle, Project officer at the Liaison Office ARG-EU and visit the COST website.



Launching of the **ALCUE** **KBBE** project

On June 23 and 24 the launch meeting of the ALCUE-KBBE Project was held at the International Center For Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia. The project, coordinated by Dr. Guy Henry CIRAD, aims at building the foundation for a strategic alliance between the regions of EU and LAC, to facilitate collaboration and coordination of research and innovation in the fields of KBBE including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food and related biotechnologies.



First bi-regional meeting of the **ICT initiative** resulting from the **ALCUE SOM**

On June 7 and 8 2011, the International Conference "ICT Innovation Challenges" was held at the Hotel Plaza San Francisco, Santiago de Chile. On that occasion Javier Orozco, an Argentinean expert, participated. The main objective of the conference was to strengthen the cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) between the EU, and Latin America and the Caribbean, thus promoting the development of political dialogue involving the various stakeholders of the industry, government and research community in the region.

Leading European and Latin America experts participated to strengthen the coordination of policy initiatives, develop a common vision and develop strategic cooperation schemes and pilot activities between both regions.

This conference was organized by the EULARINET project, which has become the instrument to develop pilot initiatives defined in the ALCUE SOM.

Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the **S&T Cooperation Agreement** between **EU and Argentina**

On May 31 and June 1, the Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the S&T Cooperation Agreement between EU and Argentina was held by videoconference. The National Directress for International Relations of MINCyT, Eng. Agueda Menvielle, Dr. Isi Saragossi, Director General for Research and Technological Development (DG RTD), European experts and Argentinean NCPs attended the Meeting.

The 2011-2012 "Roadmap" was introduced with the objectives, activities and deadlines for the implementation of cooperation activities between the parties. Also, additional information on S & T policies in the EU and Argentina was exchanged and mechanisms for increasing reciprocity in priority areas were explored and proposed as well.

The representatives agreed to highlight the progress achieved during the past five years and agreed on the need to strengthening future actions and plan new cooperation activities.

First Consultation Meeting for the **ALCUE KBBE** bi-regional cooperation

The first consultation meeting of the Bioeconomy Working Group resulting from the last meeting of Senior Officials from Latin America and Caribbean and European Union held in March 2011 took place on June 22. This meeting was related to the Kick-off Project KBBE ALCUE.

The co-leaders of the working group led by Argentina, represented by Dr. Eduardo Trigo, Senior Officials representing each country, funding agencies, representatives of the European Commission and thematic experts from both regions participated in the meeting. The consultation outlined a plan of action for the bioeconomy initiative including the implementation of agreements, budgets and indicators to measure progress and results in view of the next meeting to be held in France in September.

Latin American NCPs Network: a joint work between **EULARINET** and **ABEST**

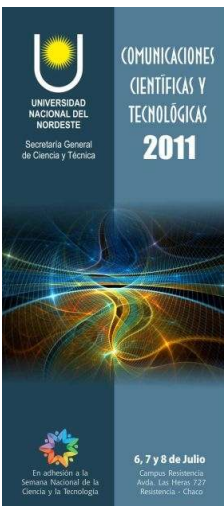
The appointment of thematic National Contact Points (NCPs) in all Latin American countries through the EULARINET project is currently being promoted. The liaison offices of LA are helping to identify countries where the positions are still vacant, it is also expected that the liaison offices serve as trainers for recently appointed NCPs. Argentina has gained experience with Bolivia, Peru, Uruguay and Paraguay.

The following countries have appointed NCPs so far: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, thus totalling 126 thematic NCPs for Latin America.

“Horizon 2020 – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation”

This is the new name for the future EU-funding Programme for Research and Innovation. More information at the EC website

ABEST-NET Section



The Argentina Liaison Office - European Union (ABEST II) of the National Directorate of International Relations, Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation has offered a Workshop on International Cooperation with EU in the province of Corrientes. It took place on July 6th in the framework of the Meeting of Scientific and Technological Communications 2011, organized by the General Secretariat of Science and Technology of the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste. Researchers, representatives of public and private sector participated in the workshop in order to implement initiatives in innovative areas.

The information presented in this section is provided solely by the Institutional Points member of ABEST -NET. Those interested in publicizing events or activities are required to send them to abest@mincyt.gov.ar

Project: Wind power generation integrated to the development of the Puna region at Salta

The Universidad Católica de Salta, through the approval of the project "Wind power generation integrated to the development of the Puna region of the province of Salta" contribute to the development of the textile industry of South American camelids (llamas and vicunas) through the use of the wind resource in the Dept. Los Andes, to generate electricity to allow the future development of the region through improving the local participation of the camelid fibres in textiles. It will be financed under the federal program line-PPFP Productive Innovation, of the Federal Council for Science and Technology.

The project aims at laying the groundwork for future actions, to create a development pole preventing the emigration of the Andean population and thus become the dynamic centre of the socio-economic growth of a depressed region through harnessing wind power, an abundant resource in the abovementioned region.

The Governor of the Province of Salta by virtue of Decree No. 2827 approves the Institutional Cooperation Agreement signed between different organizations and entities, especially the Secretariat of Energy of the Province of Salta as one of the final beneficiaries of this project.

For more information, please contact Ileana Ordoñez Sola, Chancellor's Advisory Committee, Universidad Católica de Salta (0054 -387) 426 8592.

New call to finance Argentinean SMEs in international consortia

The 2011 International contributions are non refundable funds providing partial finance technological development and innovation projects submitted by SMEs in the framework of bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements. The funds will be awarded by the FONSOFT (Argentina's Trust Fund for the Promotion of Software Industry) for projects in the area of software and computer services (excluding self-development) and FONTAR (Argentinean Technological Fund) for other fields of activity aimed at generating innovations at national level of products and/or processes.

Fostering EU – ARG consortia

The Liaison Office ARG-EU (ABEST II) of the National Directorate of International Relations at MINCYT will open a call to fund actions aimed at facilitating the creation of partnerships among R & D+i European and Argentinean groups and/or SMEs under FP7, thus facilitating the mobility of European researchers or technicians to our country. This call will be open until September 15 2011 and the call guidelines will be published soon at the ABEST website. For more information, write to abest@mincyt.gov.ar

Upcoming FP7 informative meetings

On **July 20 and 25**, two informative meetings (Info Days) will be held by videoconference, to publicize the new opportunities of cooperation published in the 2011 Working Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for Latin American and Caribbean countries. The areas to be covered are the following ones : ICT - Food - Environment - Health - People Programme - Transport - Social Sciences. All those interested in participating through videoconference can do it by contacting one of the Comunidad Tecnológica Científica de Innova|Red points, calling to (011) 4322-8488 extension 107 or sending an email to ABEST.

On **July 26** ABEST will organize a general Info Day to present the international cooperation opportunities to Argentinean research institutions and entrepreneurs in Fundación Cassará, Av. De Mayo 1194. To register to this meeting, please send an email to ABEST.

Results of the latest ABEST II call

Seven beneficiaries were selected to receive funding for a maximum of € 2,500 each one in the call launched by the National Directorate of International Relations at MINCYT through the ABEST II Project. These applications were designed to finance measures that facilitate the participation of R & D+i groups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the FP7. Upcoming calls for Argentinean institutions will be open in 2012. For more information, check the ABEST II website.

FORESTA Conference

On June 9, the International Conference "Policy Dialogue for the Information Society" was held at the Universidad de Palermo, the local partner of the FORESTA project. Argentinean and European experiences have been presented to make recommendations for improving ICT cooperation between EU and LAC. Panellists and participants alike discussed the expectations, priorities, obstacles and challenges in the region concerning the participation of private sector researchers and professionals in the next FP7 calls.



Monitoring the EU-ARG Cooperation

During June and July, the Observatory of EU-ARG Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation ABEST II has conducted a survey directed to all those Argentinean institutions that have participated in projects under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), or at least have sent a proposal to be evaluated. This initiative will help us to improve our advice and awareness of the needs and potentials of our country to access international funding.

If you have not received the message from the Observatory and would like to participate to let us know your experience, please, send an email to Angel Hernaiz with copy to ABEST.

MINCyT participates in 12 projects co-financed by the European Commission

Through the Liaison Office Argentina - European Union of the National Directorate of International Relations, MINCyT participates in 12 thematic projects that foster the promotion and dissemination of the capacities of the Argentinean institutions in Europe and Latin America. Argentina ranks in the 12° in terms of number of applicants and 10° in terms of requested EC contribution, participating in 97 projects, receiving a total of 9,28 millions of Euros in terms of EC contribution.

The European Commission launched on February 9 a Green Paper on the options and future priorities for research and innovation funding. On June 10 in Brussels, the EC launched an analysis of the public process of the consultation that has been conducted since February.

ABEST launches new website
<http://www.abest.com.ar>

About this newsletter

ABEST II Newsletter is a bimonthly electronic bulletin, edited by the National Directorate of International Relations at the Argentinean Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation.

ABEST II stands for the Argentinean Bureau for Enhancing Cooperation with the European Community in the Science, Technology and Innovation Area. Co-funded by the FP7, ABEST II consortium is integrated by: APRE (Italy), CIRAD (France) and DST (South Africa).

The main objective of ABEST II is to provide support to ARG-EU bilateral activities in S,T&I and to develop long-term sustainability for the promotional activities carried on this platform. The information contained in this publication should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission.

Please email to abest@MINCyT.gov.ar for any comments on this newsletter or if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe.

International Convention BIO 2011

The Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, Dr. Lino Barañao, participated as keynote speaker at the Global Health Forum of the International Convention BIO 2011 that was held on June 28 in Washington, USA. There Barañao highlighted the competitive advantages of Argentina for investment in biotechnology applied to health. BIO 2011 Convention is the largest global meeting for the biotechnology industry and in which 15,300 industry leaders from 65 countries participate with international authorities and leading personalities of the sector.

During the panel he shared with entrepreneurs and officials from India, Brazil and South Africa, Minister Barañao stressed the importance of the area of biotechnology for the country's economic progress and the need to promote cooperation between companies and researchers to facilitate new developments and products, particularly in the field of health.

ABEST Help-Desk for SMEs

Call (0054-11) 4891-8368/69 to discuss about your participation in the calls of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Union and other international opportunities.