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Meeting of Nordic Stakeholders:

Nordic Perspectives on Strengthening Higher Education, Research
and Innovation Cooperation with Latin America & the Caribbean

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Meeting of Nordic Stakeholders: Nordic Perspectives on Strengthening Higher Education, Research and Innovation Cooperation with Latin America & the Caribbean.

This marks the first meeting of Nordic Stakeholders with perspectives in Latin America and the Caribbean, an important gesture of renovated interest among higher education and scientific cooperation institutions to promote bi-regional dialogue aiming at delving into possible opportunities in such important areas. The meeting took place in Stockholm on 2nd and 3rd of June 2016 in the offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, ahead of the Second Preparatory Seminar for the III EU-CELAC Academic Summit 2017, to be held in Stockholm on the 6th and 7th of October 2016.

The event consisted of a roundtable and different workshops aiming at spreading valuable information regarding the current state of higher education and scientific cooperation as well as future priorities among the Nordic countries, with a focus on potential deepening of cooperation with Latin America & the Caribbean. With the attendance of representatives from different institutions of higher education and scientific cooperation the meeting proved

to be a success where all parties learned from one and another and jointly developed valuable initiatives, which will be incorporated into the agenda of the aforementioned Preparatory Seminar of the III EU-LAC Academic Summit.

This document is the result of the fruitful participation of key actors who are committed to the promotion and improvement of higher education as well as scientific cooperation. We hope that the information hereby presented contributes to the strengthening and deepening of cooperation among actors from these two regions that share common values and an important heritage of cooperation which is currently resurfacing and will undoubtedly bring benefits to the Nordic region as well as to Latin America and the Caribbean.

The European Institute of International Studies.

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List of Abbreviations

ALCUE NET – Latin America, Caribbean and European Union Network on Research and Innovation

CELAC – Community of Latin America and the Caribbean states

CRA – Common Research Area

EIIS – European Institute of International Studies

ELAN – European and Latin American Technology based Business Network

EU – European Union

EU-CELAC – European Union and the Community of Latin America and the Caribbean states

FAP EU-CELAC – Permanent Academic Forum for the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean

FinCEAL – Developing Finnish Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation between Europe, Africa and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

GII – Global Innovation Index

ICTs – Information and Communication Technologies

JIRI – Joint Initiative for Joint Research and Innovation

LAC – Latin America and the Caribbean

NMP-DeLA – Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and New Production

Technologies Deployment in Latin American Countries

FTA – Foreign Trade Agreement

PA – Pacific Alliance

GVC – Global Value Chains

SME – Small and Medium Enterprises

STI – Science Technology and Innovation

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

VTT – Technical Research Centre of Finland

Preface

This meeting was the first meeting of Nordic Stakeholders with a perspective in Latin America and the Caribbean, an important gesture of renovated interest among higher education and scientific institutions to promote bi-regional dialogue aiming at delving into potential opportunities in such important areas.

The meeting took place in Stockholm on 2nd and 3rd of June 2016 in the offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, ahead of the Second Preparatory Seminar for the III EU-CELAC Academic Summit 2017, to be held in Stockholm on the 6th and 7th of October 2016.

The event consisted of a roundtable and different workshops aiming at sharing valuable information regarding the current state of higher education and scientific cooperation as well as at defining future priorities among the Nordic countries in these areas, with a focus on potential deepening of cooperation with Latin America & the Caribbean.

With the attendance of representatives from different institutions of higher education and scientific cooperation the meeting proved to be a success where all parties learned from one and another and jointly developed valuable initiatives, which will be incorporated into the agenda of the aforementioned Second Preparatory Seminar for the III EU-CELAC Academic Summit 2017.

This document is therefore the result of the fruitful participation of key persons and institutions committed to the promotion of higher education and scientific cooperation between the Nordic countries and the LAC region.

We hope that the information hereby presented will contribute to the improvement of higher education through an efficient cooperation among Nordic and CELAC countries, members of two regions that share common values and an important cultural heritage.

Such cooperation merits further strengthening and will undoubtedly bring benefits to both the Nordic and the Latin America and the Caribbean regions.

My gratitude to those who made this seminar possible and to those who participated and contributed to its success.

Ambassador Antonio Nuñez y Garcia-Sauco
President European Institute of International Studies

Introduction and acknowledgments

In the last decades, the Latin America and the Caribbean region has undergone a deep social transformation process, which has brought forward an overall reduction of poverty and an expansion of the middle classes. As a result, the importance of higher education has grown significantly in the region. Several Latin American countries are dedicating important resources to the quality improvement and internationalization of their higher education systems. These processes offer considerable possibilities for increasing mutually beneficial collaboration between Latin American and the Caribbean and the Nordic countries.

Although various forms of mostly bilateral academic exchanges (teacher and student mobility, capacity building projects, research collaboration and education export initiatives) already exist, a lot of the collaboration potential remains untapped. There seems to be boundless interest from the Latin American higher education institutions to work together with Nordic counterparts, but for an individual Nordic country with limited resources it is difficult to fully take advantage of such possibilities. As a region we would be better equipped to respond to the demand. Advancing our countries' interests together through joint Nordic efforts could bring many benefits: further internationalization of our universities, institutes and research centres; new strategic partnerships for developing joint projects and programs; pooling of resources and access to European and international funds; enhanced influence on bi-regional science policy dialogues; new job markets for our graduate students; as well as better visibility as a region and as a study destination for both exchange and degree students from the LAC region. At the same time, it is an opportunity to contribute to the global education agenda (Education 2030), one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to address these issues together, the European Institute of International Studies (EIIS) in cooperation with the Government Offices of Sweden, the FinCEAL project (Developing Finnish Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation between Europe and the LAC Region) and supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland, the Embassy of Peru in Sweden and the Embassy of Colombia in Sweden, organized the Meeting for Nordic Stakeholders (Stockholm, 2nd and 3rd of June 2016). It was thanks to this fruitful collaboration among different actors that such an event could take place.

The meeting aimed to:

- Share information on each Nordic country's current state of higher education and scientific cooperation and future priorities
- Discuss the challenges, best practices and potential synergies in collaborating with Latin American institutions
- Map areas in which Nordic cooperation could be strengthened, and envision concrete ways to move forward
- Increase awareness of the EU-CELAC Academic Summit and the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI) as potential platforms for Nordic-Latin American cooperation
- Agree and adopt joint proposals between the Nordic countries for the next Second Preparatory Seminar for the III EU-CELAC Academic Summit 2017 to be held in Stockholm on 6th and 7th of October 2016.

Mario Torres Jarrin
*Director European Institute of
International Studies*

Kajsa Ekroos
Senior Planning Officer FinCeal

Speakers



Ambassador Sonia Durán Smela
Head of the Diplomatic Mission of Colombia in Sweden with concurrent accreditation to Denmark and Iceland



Maria Linna Angestav
Head of the Department for International Cooperation, Swedish Council for Higher Education



Maria Lima Toivanen, PhD
Senior Scientist, VTT Technical Research at the Centre of Finland



Fernando Galván Reula, PhD
Rector of the University of Alcalá and President of the EU-LAC Permanent Academic Forum



Ambassador Teppo Tauriainen
Director of the Americas Department in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs



Mar Duque, PhD
Director of the European Institute of International Studies



Kajsa Ekroos
Senior Planning Officer at FinCEAL Plus, Finnish University Partnership for International Development



Saira Seppo, PhD
Program Manager at the Academy of Finland



Mario Torres Jarrín, PhD
Director of the European Institute of International Studies



Ambassador José Beraún
Head of the Diplomatic Mission of Peru in Sweden with concurrent accreditation to Denmark, Norway and Iceland



Ambassador Paola Amadei
Director General of the EU-LAC Foundation

Executive Summary

The EU-CELAC bi-regional integration process has identified the importance of increasing cooperation in higher education and scientific research. In this regard the EU-CELAC Common Research Area took form in Brussels on March 2016 at the fifth Senior Officials Meeting of the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI), paving the way for different strategies for Horizon 2020. Among other reasons, now that research and innovation is a central area of the EU-CELAC map, the European Institute of International Studies identified the need to further promote cooperation between the Nordic and the Latin American regions. There is great potential for cooperation with mutual benefits where the Nordic approach of the triple helix of innovation can simultaneously bring researchers from both regions together, give broad access to upper-middle income economies with a market of more than 1 billion people and in the case of the Pacific Alliance a single market of more than 200 million people. In this context it is worth highlighting that according to the Global Innovation Index (GII), elaborated by the United Nation's World Intellectual Property Organization and Cornell University, Sweden has ranked top 3 in the last five years as well as having the rest of the Nordic region constantly ranking in the top 15 out of 141 countries. In addition to this, the Government of Sweden expressed in its Statement of Government Policy 2016 that beyond its strategic partnership with Brazil, the Government will be deepening relations with a number of countries in Latin America and that an action plan for Swedish work in Latin America is currently being drafted.

The Meeting of Nordic Stakeholders, held in Stockholm on 2nd and 3rd of June 2016, was attended by government officials in areas of higher education, scientific cooperation, among others, and it was very successful in allowing the flow of information regarding the different parties' protocols and procedures for cooperation to be better

understood by all attending representatives. It was also successful in gathering a high level attendance with participation of both EU Nordic Member States and CELAC countries.

The event was inaugurated by Ambassador Teppo Tauriainen, Director of the Americas Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and followed by welcoming words by Professor Mario Torres Jarrín, Director of the European Institute of International Studies, as well as Kajsa Ekroos, Senior Planning Officer at the UniPID network (Finnish University Partnership for International Development). Following the inauguration and welcoming words, words the first panel "Experiences and Conclusions of the Nordic Latin America Contact Seminar" put forward previous experiences of cooperation between the Nordic and Latin American regions, the prospects for future developments based in the potential synergies and common values shared among both regions, as well as a clear commitment for peace and development through sustainable economic growth. The representatives of both EU and CELAC countries manifested an interest to come closer to one another. In addition, some initial ideas about possible joint Nordic initiatives were discussed, such as organizing more joint contact seminars in the future. The first day ended with a Reception at the Official Residence of the Embassy of Peru.

During the second day the of the meeting the second panel allowed all attending delegations to give an informative presentation on the "Current State of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean and the Nordic countries". During such presentations the counterparts of different institutional bodies across the Nordic region were identified, as well as their current level of engagement in the Latin American region.

After the delegations' presentations, the section on "Ongoing frameworks for EU-CELAC STI Cooperation" took place, based in the idea of a long-term vision for the EU-CELAC Cooperation through the aforementioned Common Research Area. The identified priorities include: (i) jointly address common challenges with the Nordic region, (ii) increase mobility of researchers and students and (iii) access to research infrastructures. This section of the Seminar was highly informative to raise awareness of different tools and opportunities available in order to increase cooperation, as well as to identify the different Institutions which provide these tools. For instance, the presentation of the EU-LAC Foundation, offered by Ambassador Paola Amadei, Director General of the Foundation, highlighted its mission to connect intergovernmental process with the business, academic, and social sector, as well as, in a broad and general manner, the civil society of both regions. This means that the Foundation can in many ways serve as a platform that bi-regional actors can use to pave the way to more fruitful cooperation. Similarly, Professor Fernando Galván Reula, Rector of the University of Alcalá and President of the Permanent Academic Forum for the European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean (FAP EU-LAC) reminded of the need for a bi-regional forum in order to exchange experiences in higher education, research, technology and innovation in the context of programs such as Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus, Alfa, or the Framework Programs for Science and Technology which are clear examples of success strategies within Europe. Professor Galván reminded the FAP EU-LAC's Reflection Groups which are: (i) Higher Education, (ii) Science, Technology and Innovation, (iii) Links with Society and (iv) Links with Public policies. All of which are areas where there is vast opportunity for cooperation between the Nordic and Latin American regions.

Regarding the members from the Nordic delegations, in-depth presentations about their experiences in the Latin American region were shared. One common factor for Nordic-LAC cooperation was that there is most active collaboration with Brazil; however, different actors expressed the interest to further develop joint projects with other countries within the LAC region. According to Dr. Maria Lima-Toivanen, VTT, Finland has substantially benefited from Finnish cooperation with LAC region through increased knowledge and income when participating in projects such as AL-CUE, NMP-DeLA, LEADERSHIP and ELAN. It was also mentioned that it provided visibility both as a high-tech research organization and as a Finnish institution that operates within the LAC region, hence internationalizing Finnish expertise and ways of doing business with LAC organizations as well as having stakeholders multiplying effects on Finnish companies. Overall it was clear that the challenges such as distance and language barriers are overcompensated by the opportunities the region has to offer in terms of access to medium-high income markets; the opportunity to attract student mobility -from a region with more than 200,000 students going overseas per year-; to increase international visibility and altogether join voices based on common values and principles of democratic freedom, human rights, the strive for the development of sciences, the promotion of sustainable economic growth and the promotion of international peace and security throughout different international forums.

Opening and Welcome to the First Meeting of Nordic Stakeholders

*Inauguration of the I Meeting of Nordic Stakeholders
– Ambassador Teppo Tauriainen*

Ambassador Tauriainen commenced by welcoming all attending members to the Offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Swedish Government and on his own account. Consequently he reminded that it is an important period of time to Swedish and Latin American relations as the Swedish Government was very specific from the time it came into power by expressing its will to re-engage and re-activate Swedish presence in Latin America, highlighting the long history of cooperation that exists between Sweden and LAC.

In this regard, it was highlighted that today many people who form part of the Swedish society have Latin American ancestry and that the integration process was swift and has made the Swedish society more diverse and became one of the country's many strengths. Hence the contact between Sweden and Latin America has been steady but rather in a people-to-people level, many companies have celebrated 100 years in Latin America and others continue to operate, but according to Ambassador Tauriainen the re-activation refers to the political dimension.

Today, 18 months after the Government expressed the shift in its approach towards Latin America one can already see changes such as an increased influx from tourists from the Region but also an increased amount of Government delegations, where several Ministers are traveling to LA and vice versa. It was also reminded that Sweden will host the Second Preparatory Seminar for the III EU-CELAC Academic Summit 2017 in Stockholm during October this year, which reflects Sweden's interest in cooperation with Latin America.

According to Ambassador Tauriainen, among several reasons for the Government's decision to re-engage stands the fact that Latin America has undergone a significant transformation during the past 20 years. The region has managed to become much more economically successful, there has been great progress in the efforts to reduce poverty and there is also a cultural closeness among the Nordic countries and the Latin American countries, which can serve as a platform for academic and scientific cooperation. Overall it was mentioned that the while the Foreign Ministry fulfils its function as informant and facilitator it is important to incite actors to take action and deepen cooperation as this is a win-win situation where parties can learn from each other in potential cooperation that remains vastly unexplored by the Nordic-Latin America and the Caribbean Regions.

Welcome words – Mario Torres Jarrín, PhD

As prepared for delivery

First, I want to say thank you to His Excellency Ambassador Teppo Tauriainen, for hosting this event in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Ambassador, thank you for the time and for the support to all initiatives of the our European Institute of International Studies.

At the same time, I would like to thank Kajsa Ekroos, Senior Planning Officer, FinCEAL Plus (Developing Finnish Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation between Europe and the LAC Region) and the EIIS team, in particular to Adriana Benitez Ferreira, Director of Strategic Planning of the European Institute of International Studies for all logistic work; Jonathan Violante Pica, Head of Protocol and Multilateral Affairs; Mar Duque, Director of International Relations and Amanda Nilsson, member of the Internship Program of the European Institute of International Studies.

This Nordic Meeting is has been made possible thanks to the collaboration with the Government Offices of Sweden, the FinCEAL project, the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland, the Embassy of Peru and the Embassy of Colombia. Thanks to all of you.

This Meeting gives us the opportunity to share information on each Nordic country's current state of higher education and scientific cooperation and future priorities. We can discuss the challenges, best practices and potential synergies in collaboration with Latin American and Caribbean institutions. At the same time it offers us the chance to agree on and adopt joint proposals with the Nordic

countries for the next Second Preparatory Seminar for the III EU-CELAC Academic Summit 2017 to be held in Stockholm on 6th and 7th of October 2016.

The European Institute of International Studies (EIIS) will organize the Preparatory Seminar later this year. This event represents an EIIS initiative, in partnership with the Executive Secretariat of the EU-CELAC Permanent Academic Forum and the EU-LAC Foundation and also with the collaboration of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and the Stockholm University. The main goal of this Preparatory Seminar is to advance in the implementation of the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Common Area for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. This Common Area represents a fundamental pillar in the EU-CELAC Strategic Bi-regional Association.

Today, our universities receive less national students than before, due to increasing globalization, which allows students to study abroad.

The Nordic governments have invested resources into our institutions and created more academic and research centres. However, we are few academics and researchers. Our researchers have problems finding funds for their projects.

The world is increasingly globalized; therefore, our research projects and academic programs should be designed with a global vision.

In order to achieve these goals, we need international partners. We need a strategic plan, to include aims on small-, medium- and long-term.

Why Latin America?

Latin America in economic terms:

According to World Bank, to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Union, and other global institutions:

Several countries from the Region have become middle-income countries, on their way to being developed economies.

- By 2020, the economies of emerging countries will represent 53% of the world's GDP.
- By 2020 the amount of economic activity from the Asia-Pacific region and Latin America will suppose 60% of the global GDP.
- By 2020 South-South exports will surpass North-North exports.
- By 2020, 50% of the flow of foreign direct investment will be in developing countries. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an organization with 34 countries; its mission is to promote policies to improve the economic and social welfare of people all over the world. These countries define the international policy cooperation in the world.

In 2021 OECD will have five Latin American countries among its members, among of which are: Chile, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Peru. The Inter-American Development Bank forecast that by 2025, seven Latin American countries will be “developed” countries, with a GDP per capita of at least US \$25.000. These are: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

Latin America in political terms:

The European Union allocates € 925 million to regional cooperation with Latin America for the period of 2014-2020. The Multiannual Indicative Regional Programme for Latin America 2014-2020 includes allocations for exchanges and cooperation in the field of higher education. This is indicative of an allocation of € 163 million.

This program has as general purpose:

The promotion of exchanges and cooperation in the field of higher education between the EU and Latin America.

An important fact of the 118 programs approved by the European Commission as Master Erasmus Plus, 60 of them are located in three Nordic countries: Sweden, Norway and Finland.

Sweden participates in 42 Master's Programs, Norway in 13 and Finland in 5.

In the case of Latin America, there is active participation from 5 countries:

Brazil (12 universities), Mexico (two universities), Ecuador (two universities), Colombia (two universities), Peru (one university).

Together, these 20 countries are participating in the Erasmus Mundus Master's Programs.

As Nordic countries we need to design and elaborate a joint strategy of internationalization for our universities. A strategy we need but do not have yet. On another note, this seminar is also a good opportunity for a joint collaboration between Nordic countries.

I hope this seminar will be the starting point for working together. Here, we should be able to discuss and compare our programs, the study programs of the best universities in the world, as well as to design better programs; after all, our universities are among the best in the world.

We need a strategic plan, to include aims on small-, medium- and long-term. I participate in different meetings, a forum in Europe, and have found that the best universities think in terms of small-, medium- and long-term; they have a strategic plan.

One day, in Brussels, at a bi-regional meeting between European and Latin American countries on Higher Education, a senior official of the French Government told me: "Our universities in France, maybe they aren't the best in the world, but we want them to become the best—for this reason, we want to compete with the best academic institutions. We want to attract the most students to our universities. I can't make all Latin American students come to France, but I can make some of them take academic stays in France, even if only for a few months". Let's be clear, these stays, three months, six months or one year, or Post-graduate stays (masters or doctorates) whether it's for two years or four years, represent for our countries, tuition payments to our universities, rental fees, expenses in food, clothing, and so on—all this represents a growth of our economies. And if we have more students, our governments will give us more funding for our academic programs and research projects.

Signing agreements and creating partnerships is a positive benefit for all of us. In this context, Latin America is a region of opportunity, its youthfulness and dynamic production of knowledge and innovation.

The European Union says that relations between Europe and Latin America are a Strategic Partnership, because it's founded on close historical and cultural ties; extensive people-to-people exchange, strong and growing trade and investment flows, and a deep bedrock of shared values and aspirations (such as a commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law; as well as the pursuit of social cohesion and sustainable development). Each one of these values and aspirations show a strong argument in favour of creating a university.

For this reason, I invite you attend this seminar with the idea of creating large projects and lasting relationships, of developing joint research projects and creating joint master and doctoral study courses.

Panel I: Experiences and Conclusions of the Nordic Latin American Contact Seminar

Ambassador Beraún commenced by emphasizing that today, for the first time in many years; the LAC region and its politicians have adopted a strategy where education is perceived as a highly important investment for the future of the countries. In this context, countries have committed political will and economic resources to develop a new way of using the tool of knowledge to the service of the nation-state. Furthermore, the unlimited interest from Peruvian higher education institutions to work together with Nordic counterparts was highlighted.

In this context, the Nordic Latin American Seminar held in Peru last October was mentioned, where the Swedish Council for Higher Education provided the opportunity to carry out this international event in Lima. The event was attended by the Crown Princess of Sweden and achieved to successfully create spaces for dialogue between participants from Peruvian and Nordic universities. In this regard, the importance of Nordic Latin America and the Caribbean meetings was emphasised. However, the responsibility of non-political actors in taking action towards greater cooperation was mentioned, in order to overcome challenges such as language barriers and the adequate internationalization of education institutions -which are problems that should be addressed jointly.

As for the case of Peru, Ambassador Beraún drew attention to the Peruvian Ministry of Education's plan to prioritize positioning the Peruvian university system at a regional and global level by facilitating the internationalization of universities through strategic alliances at a global level. Such a plan, which consists of a network of eight universities, could serve as a useful counterpart in dealings with Nordic universities.

Similarly, the Ambassador of Colombia, Sonia Durán Smela, reminded of the different mechanisms and networks of universities that serve as platforms to cooperate with the Nordic countries. The delegation of the Swedish Council for Higher Education pointed out the visit realized to Colombia on October 2015, where a Contact Seminar was organized with the aim of increasing the number of joint projects between universities in the Nordic countries and in Latin America, within the international dimension of Erasmus Plus (primarily the activities Capacity Building, Credit Mobility and Joint Master Degrees) and within the Swedish-funded Linnaeus-Palme programme.

Panel II: Current State of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean in the Nordic Countries & Ongoing Frameworks for EU-CELAC STI Cooperation

EU-LAC Foundation – Ambassador Paola Amadei

In the Second day of the Nordic Meeting Ambassador Amadei began by presenting a brief history of the EU-LAC Foundation, headquartered in Hamburg, Germany. Comprising 62 member states (33 LAC and 28 EU) the foundation aims at transforming the strategic association between the EU and the LAC regions into an active participative reality which involves the societies it comprises, as well as linking the intergovernmental processes with the private sector, academy and civil society. Furthermore, it seeks to promote the development of a joint global perspective between both regions.

A very important activity of the Foundation consists in the development of a map of organizations and institutions within the regions. It also focuses activities with SMEs aiming to allow their internationalization and to provide the capability of benefiting from the tools that EU-LAC has to offer. Corporate social responsibility has also been an important area where bi-regional cooperation allows each party to learn from previous experiences and hence implement successful strategies.

In relation to academic and research activities, the Foundation launched a program called EXPLORA where specific calls are made in order to develop bi-regional research projects which

are greatly enriched by the cooperation of academics from both regions. During 2015, the EXPLORA initiative received 252 applications out of which more than half involved bi-regional consortiums, out of which 2 were sponsored by the Foundation. In this context, it was suggested to further promote the support for such research among the EU-LAC member states. The topics of such research have focused in different areas such as intra-industrial commerce, regional organisms for the protection of human rights, public agricultural policies and energetic transitions.

In another important topic of higher education, Ambassador Amadei mentioned the importance of promoting student mobility, implementing a system of common homologation of studies within the LAC region and strengthening the systems of higher education, all of which coincide with the objectives of the FAP. In the light of this, the President of the Foundation, Leonel Fernández, announced, this month in Paris, the need for the development of an inclusive process, formed by actors from the universities as well as students, professors and deans from public and private institutions. The goal is to renew the momentum for cooperation in higher education in order to develop an inclusive education platform known as the “Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Space for Higher Education”.

Regarding science, technology and innovation, the JIRI initiative was reminded, which seeks to be implemented through six working groups: (i) Bio-economy and Food Safety -Argentina and France- (ii) Biodiversity and Climate Change -Colombia and France- (iii) Information and Communication Technologies -Chile and Finland- (iv) Renewable Energies -Mexico and Spain- (v) Health -Spain and Brazil and (vi) the Working Group for Transversal Issues -Mexico and Portugal. These bi-regional working groups have allowed the deepening of cooperation and the co-financing of projects. Finally, the foundation expressed its ambition to further incorporate the vision of the Caribbean while promoting the construction of a research EU-CELAC space.

Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Common Area for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Process – Prof. Phd. Fernando Galván Reula

As President of the Academic Permanent Forum for the EU-LAC Prof. Galván emphasized the different reasons for the need of a EU-LAC bi-regional forum. Firstly, it is needed for the exchange of experiences in higher education, research, technology and innovation; secondly, for bi-regional and intra-regional associations which would provide academic and research programmes, mobility of academic staff and students, and the accreditation and recognition of studies, degrees and diplomas; and finally, for programmes such as Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus, Alfa, or the Framework Programmes for Science and Technology, which are clear examples of success within Europe.

EU-CELAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI): How Finland has Benefited from Participating in the Process – Phd. Maria Lima Toivanen

This informative presentation regarded the Nordic perspectives on strengthening higher education and R&I cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean from a Finnish perspective. Dr. Lima expressed that Finland has substantially benefited from Finnish cooperation with the LAC region through increased knowledge and income when participating in projects such as ALCUE, NMP-DeLA, LEADERSHIP and ELAN. It was also mentioned that it provided visibility both as a high-tech research organization and as a Finnish institution that operates within the LAC region, hence internationalizing Finish expertise and ways of doing business with LAC organizations and also having stakeholders multiplying effects on Finnish companies.

It was also highlighted that the FinCEAL project (Developing Finnish Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation between Europe, Africa, Asia and the LAC Region, more information: www.unipid.fi/finceal) has supported participation of Finnish experts in the thematic workshops and events organized by JIRI, Alcue-Net and other related projects. According to the feedback received from FinCEAL the participation of Finnish researchers in these events has had positive

results such as: the formation of new partnerships and creation of consortia; preparation of new project proposals (i.e. for Horizon2020); the showcasing of Finnish expertise in the LAC region; the opportunity to provide a Finnish scientific community's input into the STI policy dialogues which has in turn influenced European funding opportunities; the promotion of researcher and student exchanges; and the development of different joint publications.

Concerning the lessons learned in the Nordic-LAC cooperation, it was mentioned that there is not enough knowledge spread about the Nordic countries within the LAC region but that their expertise, quality of education and welfare approach are deeply appreciated once exposed to it. It was also learned that the LAC are interested in looking after the success of the Nordic countries, however, more exchange of knowledge is still needed to increase STI collaboration and to tackle social challenges. In this context, JIRI offers a possibility to be aware of all the developments within STI in the LAC region, also with countries with which Finland does not have bilateral cooperation, and also a possibility to work together as Nordic European countries to jointly achieve a better visibility in the LAC region.

In terms of actual cooperation through joint projects, it was remarked that joint funding for Finnish and CELAC research projects makes the feasibility substantially increase while giving Finnish researchers the possibility to enlarge their global networks. On the other hand, bilateral projects and multilateral ERA-NET projects give partners a possibility to deepen the co-operation with a well-functioning consortium and may later result in further funding applications from instruments such as Horizon 2020.

Mechanisms of the Academic Bi-regional Cooperation and Internationalization Strategies for Strengthening the Common Area Euro-Latin America and the Caribbean for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation – Prof. Phd. Mar Duque

During this presentation, information regarding the European Institute of International Studies was provided. Accordingly, it was mentioned that the aim of the Institute is to provide academic research and programs to serve key decision makers from the public and private sectors. It also offers an independent forum for dialogue among international organizations, foreign ministries and academic institutions, effectively supporting the development of mutually beneficial solutions for key issues.

The main activities of the Institute are: (i) to design, elaborate, promote and implement international strategies, initiatives, plans, academic programs and projects contributing to the balanced and sustainable development of the countries; (ii) to create and establish international mechanisms of cooperation contributing to promote research, education and training; (iii) to provide consulting services in foreign trade and policy, and strategic plans on internationalization to embassies, enterprises, public administrations and organizations and universities; (iv) to promote the research activities of the EIIS; and (v) to organize training and academic activities such as courses, seminars, workshops and conferences at national and international level.

In this context, the “IBER EURO LATINOAMERICA CONSORTIUM” was presented. An initiative promoted by the EIIS – who is responsible for its Executive Secretariat-. The Consortium was developed in collaboration with the Department of Romance Studies and Classics of the Faculty of Humanities at Stockholm University and is formed by more than 37 European & Latinoamerica-Caribbean Education Institutions. Its strategic partners are the EULAC Foundation and the IBEROAMERICAN Secretariat. The main types of partners are:

- Member Institutions: universities, research institutes and centres interested in joint academic endeavours.
- Associated Institutions: centres and networks with an academic or cultural focus that are interested in the strengthening and the promotion of EU-LAC relations, as well as the relations of the Latinoamerica & Caribe community.
- Collaborating institutions: public or private institutions who wish to participate in the activities of the consortium.

With the objectives of promoting academic cooperation among countries from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, fostering and developing academic programs with international excellency, supporting the development of common spaces for higher education and research: the Ibero-American Knowledge Space and the Common Space for Higher Education European Union-Latin America and Caribbean and the specific objectives of deepening and promoting the knowledge on issues of shared interest of the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership, providing academic support for training and capacity-building and acquiring new channels of interaction seeking to benefit the EU-LAC Partnership in the context of globalization.

The international activities of the consortium consist of academic and research chairs with periodical seminars and workshops listed below:

- Iberoamerica Global Chair in coordination with SEGIB and EULAC Foundation (4th edition)
- New CELAC-EU Chair proposed to be coordinated with the EULAC Foundation
- Chair on Ethical, Civic & Democratic Values - PhD. Prof. Juan Díaz Nicolás

The institute is also actively involved in the development of academic research in areas permeated by its competencies. The aforementioned Research Groups and the Head of each Group are:

- The Inter-regional Dialogue and Global Governance Research Group- PhD. Prof. Mario Torres
- The Finance and Private Sector Research Group – PhD. Prof. Kassim Durrani
- The Internationalization, Social Innovation & Policies in Higher Education Research Group – PhD. Prof. Mar Duque
- The Research Group on Democracy and Rule of Law – PhD. Prof. Magnus Lembke

Finally, the presentation concluded with the reminder of the Preparatory Seminar of the III EULAC Academic Summit 2017 to be held in Stockholm on 6th and 7th October 2016. The Summit will be attended by high ranking officials from the EULAC region and there, the discussions held on the Meeting of Nordic Stakeholders will be deepened in order to include them in the recommendations to policy makers.

Workshop & Meeting Conclusions

The Meeting of Nordic Stakeholders concluded with fruitful discussions between two separate working groups conformed by all attending parties. The discussions comprehended all the presentations given throughout the Meeting and the different ideas derived from them. The aim of these workshops was to deliver concrete joint initiatives in order to promote cooperation among the Nordic Countries and Latin American Region. The initiatives produced during the thematic group discussions will be now presented at the Second Preparatory Seminar for the III EU-CELAC Academic Summit 2017 to be held in Stockholm in October this year, in order to further discuss such initiatives and later present them to the Heads of State during the III EU-CELAC meeting in 2017. The thematic workshops were focused in the best practices each region has, the synergies between the Nordic-LAC regions, the existing platforms for collaboration as well as the main challenges that such integration may experience.

Challenges

- Both working groups identified language barriers as an existing challenge that has to be addressed, currently there are few bi-regional Nordic-LAC student exchanges, when compared to other regions, and Nordic delegations mentioned that having to speak Spanish or Portuguese in order to pursue academic studies in the LAC region often hampered the decision to go there. In this regard, it was suggested to promote programs where the first semester or year studies are in English and include intensive language courses so that the rest of the education can be taught in the language of the host country.
- Communication between higher education and scientific cooperation institutions was also identified as a challenge, as in some cases even actors within the same region were unaware of certain cooperation procedures and protocols. As for this, events such as the Nordic Stakeholder meeting proved to be successful in spreading accurate information in the steps to be taken to promote and develop cooperation strategies.

- Bureaucracy was identified as a common boundary for the timely progress of cooperation between the Nordics-LAC regions. To address this challenge, the establishment of simple and clear protocols was recommended, as well the establishment of contact points where cooperating partners have direct contact with each other.
- Distance barriers were identified as a natural challenge that can be easily overcome in today's interconnected world. However, for a successful approach it will be important to hold continuous dialogue and to keep all parties updated in the activities may it be bilateral or bi-regional so that further cooperation can be promoted.

Finally, concrete recommendations were elaborated in order to ensure a deepening of the activities in higher education and scientific cooperation between the Nordic-LAC regions. In this context, it was highlighted that the Nordic countries are perceived as innovative and democratic nations who have successfully positioned themselves as technological hubs through a platform of higher education, science and technology that has seen many of today's most successful start-ups emerge into success stories. However, the desire for further internationalization of Nordic institutions and organisations for those same areas is an ongoing effort to which further cooperation with the LAC region would contribute greatly. There are more than 200 thousand students from the LAC region going overseas to course academic studies and still a relatively small amount choose to go to Nordic countries mainly because of lack of information, countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Chile, and Mexico, have been increasing the number of scholarships for students to go abroad, so the spread of information regarding opportunities within Nordic institutions for higher education will increase student mobility towards the region.

The Nordic triangular approach of the 'triple helix of innovation' also provides mutual opportunities for cooperation, where Nordic companies may have access to populous medium-high income markets through technological and skill transfers in the establishment of industrial activities within the region. For the promotion of such cooperation it would be very valuable to have a clear time-line map of success cases of Nordic companies who have had this approach in the LAC region such as the Norwegian Statkraft in Peru.

Concrete Recommendations

- Bring the initiative to the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Pacific Alliance member countries in order to establish a Nordic – Pacific Alliance contact point on the framework of the EU-CELAC Summit, which can serve as a first contact of cooperation between both regions and as a non-exclusive pilot which could later involve any other interested countries.
- Nordic institutions of higher education and scientific research should work together to serve as “education ambassadors” of one another, so that when one country sends a delegation to a certain country of the LAC region such delegation may represent the rest of the Nordic institutions in order to ease the spread of information.
- Create a map of success stories of Nordic companies who are established in the LAC region and preferably who use the triple-helix approach of education/research/industry so that their positive experiences may be replicated for other companies.
- Offer the possibility of attaining joint degrees among Nordic-LAC partner universities so that student mobility can be increased.
- Organization of joint thematic workshops and seminars to develop concrete cooperation in different priority themes, such as the ones agreed by the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI): renewable energies, bioeconomy, biodiversity, climate change, ICT for societal challenges and health.

The aforementioned recommendations will be presented during the Second Preparatory Seminar for the III EU-CELAC Academic Summit 2017, where the aim is to bring the Nordic-LAC regions closer. All of the potential strategies for cooperation developed during the I Meeting of Nordic Stakeholders with perspectives in Latin America and the Caribbean will be greatly enabled in the light of the shared values between the Nordic and the LAC countries. The bonds of friendship between the two regions have been strengthened throughout a long history of cooperation and friendship, which is now reinforced by a more modern vision throughout Latin America with a renewed commitment from the LAC region towards greater investment in education, science and innovation.