



Thematic priority setting for EU, Caribbean & Central America in research and innovation

Concept note for experts



cesarharada.com

@Miki Jpeg

Why combining Central America and the Caribbean?

The Experts dialogue is in line with the general objective set by the “**Madrid Declaration: towards a new stage in the bi-regional partnership: innovation and technology for sustainable development and social inclusion**” (May 2010) in particular for its contribution to the enhancement of the **bi-regional and triangular cooperation** in *Central America, the Caribbean (CAC) and in the EU*.

The workshop gives priority to identification and **definition of research lines and scientific priorities** that pave the way to new cooperation opportunities as well as enable access to cooperation opportunities to countries with low or no participation in European Programmes.

These areas potentially have several common elements and priorities in terms of research environment and needs. The parallel sessions will encourage and feed the scientific and political dialogue among the stakeholders involved at regional, intraregional as well as international level.

Objectives of the workshop:

The aim of the Workshop is to bring together high level of expertise and knowledge from the Caribbean, Central American and Europe:

- to identify research lines and scientific priorities of common interest and benefit
- to discuss challenges for EU-Caribbean and EU-CA cooperation that can guide the work of EUCARINET and ENLACE in the next years.

The experts dialogue workshop covers 3 different Thematic Areas identified as a elements of mutual interest:

- Health
- Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy (KBBE)



Thematic priority setting for EU, Caribbean & Central America in research and innovation



- Environment

The thematic areas have to be considered in a broad and inclusive way, all of them covering major sub-themes and fields. Identifying and defining bottom-up **research lines and scientific priorities** can be the basis for fostering new cooperation opportunities for EU and CAC research actors in FP7 and beyond. These research lines have to be intended as main research priorities that the experts will point out, share and discuss on: these research priorities will be transferred to the EC and they could evolve in future opportunities for International Cooperation under the three concerned thematic areas.

The results of the workshop will be included in 2 comprising papers:

- “Science and Technology expert dialogues between UE and Central America ”
- “Caribbean Regional Position Paper on EU-Caribbean S&T cooperation priorities”.

KEY ROLES in each of the 3 thematic sessions:

EC representatives from Health, KBBE and Environment Units: During the plenary session they will present the Scientific Roadmap for their respective themes and underline their priorities for International cooperation. During the Thematic sessions the EC officer will participate to the round table discussion with the CAC experts and EU experts.

CAC EXPERTS: They will contribute to the discussion by presenting their regional Research priorities in the thematic session, giving a feedback which should be representative of the whole Caribbean or Central America area. The 6 regional experts (3 from Caribbean, 3 from Central America) should be complementary one to each other, covering different fields of expertise and different sub-regional area of the Caribbean and Central America. **Compulsory characteristics:** Science and technology experts, Representative for their respective regions. English speaking, familiar with international cooperation, sound knowledge of the thematic area, good communication skills; **Preferable characteristics:** knowledge of the industrial and private sector. **Requested preparatory documents:** each CAC experts has to provide a presentation (see table 1) of his intervention 3 weeks before the workshop.

EUROPEAN EXPERTS: They will contribute to the discussion with their scientific knowledge in the sector and in the CAC region thus ensuring an immediate feedback on the inputs outlined by the CAC experts.

They will also act as facilitators in the benchmarking of CAC research priorities and EU research strategies.

The 2 EU experts should be complementary one to each other, covering different fields of expertise **Compulsory characteristics:** English speaking, familiar with international cooperation, sound knowledge of the thematic area, good communication skills. **Preferable characteristics:** knowledge of the industrial and private sector.

RAPPORTEUR / MODERATOR: On the First day, the Rapporteur will participate to the plenary session and to the parallel session, also acting as moderators in the panel. On the Second day, each Rapporteur will present in the plenary session the most significant results of the Priority Setting dialogue workshop underlining the priorities of interest either between CAC and EU or between Caribbean and EU and Central America and EU.



Table 1.

Who does what:

WHO	WHAT	WHEN
CAC experts	Provide a Power point following a track that the organizer will provide	20 th of February
EU experts	Read the outlines sent by CAC experts Provide their feedback, benchmarking with FP 7 and European interests.	Before the event
Rapporteur	Read the Power point sent by CAC experts Read the background documents for the theme that the organizer will provide	Before the event
Thematic National Contact Point (NCPs)	They will provide the background documents to the Experts and Rapporteurs	15 th of February

* Experts inputs should focus on the following:

1. Relevance / strategic importance of the topic for global or specific regional conditions (Caribbean / Central American ; or isle specific problematic);
2. Mutual interest and added value for Europe ;
3. Evidence of potential partners / capacities in EU and Third Countries to conduct research of excellence on this topic;
4. Novelty and innovation proposed by the research;
5. Matching with research lines identified by previous similar exercises;

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Background documents will be provided to each participant to ensure **maximum efficiency** and **benefit** during the discussions. This includes:

Madrid Declaration: towards a new stage in the bi-regional partnership: innovation and technology for sustainable development and social inclusion http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/lac/index_en.htm

Work programme of respectively the KBBE / Health / Environment theme <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage#Food,%20Agriculture%20and%20Fisheries,%20and%20Biotechnology>

Regional reports for Central America

Roadmaps for the 3 themes

For KBBE: Synthesis reports produced by the FP7 BIOCIRCLE project that launched a series of National Round Tables in 17 Third Countries in order to extract a short list of research lines per Activity of the KBBE theme;

Other documents (to be provided separately for every theme).