

## Webinar “Internationalisation of Research and Innovation: where European and global experiences meet” 23 June 2020 | 14:00 – 15:30 CEST | Zoom

EURASHE, together with its members CEU Andalucía, organised the webinar “Internationalisation of Research and Innovation: where European and global experiences meet” on 23 June 2020 on Zoom, inviting representatives from the European Commission, professional higher education institutions – hereafter PHE – and the world of work to share opportunities and experiences in the field of international cooperation in R&I.

Speakers of the event were:

- **Alejandro Zurita**, R&I Counsellor for Brazil, Delegation of the EU to Brazil
- **Rita Lecbychova**, Head of Unit “International Cooperation I (Europe, Americas and thematic coherence)”, European Commission
- **Francisco Cuervas**, CEO, Ghenova
- **James Clarke**, EU Strategic Liaison Manager, Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)
- **Armando Pires**, Advisor for International Affairs/Vice-President, CCISP/EURASHE
- **Oscar Gomezo**, Journalist

Moderator of the event was **Iskren Kirilov**, Director of International Affairs at CEU Andalucía, who presented EURASHE’s activities as the representative of PHE institutions in Europe and its priorities in the field of R&I.

The recording of the webinar can be accessed [here](#).

### **EU-Brazil cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation: mutual interests and common challenges**

*Alejandro Zurita, R&I Counsellor for Brazil, Delegation of the EU to Brazil*

Brazil has been a strategic partner of the European Union since 2007. Alejandro Zurita, from the Delegation of the EU to Brazil, gave an overview of the main cooperation activities between the Union and the Latin American country, underlying the added value that third countries like Brazil bring to European research and innovation.

The main framework of scientific cooperation with Brazil is Horizon 2020 (hereafter H2020) which is fully open to international cooperation and highly recommends the participation of third countries in the projects’ proposals. Together with H2020, there are also instruments of bilateral cooperation with Brazil, like targeted calls on specific challenges and topics, joint or coordinated actions and calls of CELAC (The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) in different areas.

Brazil is currently the second-best-extra-EU country in terms of participation to the European Research’s projects despite the challenges like growing budgetary, a feeling of discouragement among the Brazilian scientific community and environmental challenges, which may impact international cooperation in the field of R&I. Nevertheless, the participation of Brazil to H2020 is bringing a clear added value to the programme, with the success rate of proposals featuring Brazilian partners being well above the average.

The next European framework programme for R&I, Horizon Europe, will reiterate its commitment to be open for the cooperation with third countries. In particular, they will have the possibility to be associated to the different clusters of the programme, which entails contributing to the budget and having the same rights as EU Member States. This will bring more flexibility and will ensure that more and more extra-EU countries will be interested in taking parts in the proposals.

The Green Deal Call under H2020, which will be published in September 2020, will be a big opportunity for international cooperation with third countries, and especially Brazil other Latin American Countries (LAC).

### **International cooperation in disruptive times: the role of the European Commission**

*Rita Lechychova, Head of Unit “International Cooperation I (Europe, Americas and thematic coherence)”, European Commission*

The Coronavirus pandemic has underlined the importance of international cooperation in scientific research. The pandemic is affecting all countries in the world and it’s clear that the only way to overcome this crisis is by acting in a coordinating manner, not only within Europe, but globally.

The European Union is actively contributing to the global response to COVID-19, putting in place several actions, like the [Coronavirus Global Response initiative](#). Coordination of R&I activities is also actively pursued under the umbrella of the [GloPID-R](#) (the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness), by promoting the sharing of information, research results and data from all research actors engaged on COVID-19 around the world. To this end, the European Commission has launched in April a [European data sharing platform](#), which is also open to all EU international partner countries.

The European Commission is actively promoting international cooperation in the field of R&I, with H2020 being open to the participation of third countries. In particular:

- 16 third countries are fully associated to H2020, enjoying the same rights and obligations of EU Member States;
- The EU has concluded 20 bilateral Science & Technology (S&T) agreements with individual countries, constituting a framework and a privileged forum to identify common interests, priorities, policy dialogue and the necessary tool for S&T collaboration;
- The European Research Council (ERC) implementing arrangements are in place in 20 third countries, with the aim of encouraging scientists to come to Europe as members of research teams;
- Creation of a common research area with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the EU counterpart for the region.

**Horizon Europe** (hereafter HEu) will be the main instrument to support the Commission’s policy priorities through research and innovation. Several new features will be introduced by the next framework programme for R&I:

- The **European Innovation Council (EIC)**, which will be a one-stop shop to bring disruptive and breakthrough innovations from lab to market application, supporting start-ups and SMEs;
- **Five Missions**, which are natural candidates for international cooperation;
- **Six clusters**, which will provide an opportunity to develop scientific joint international cooperation flagship initiatives;

- **New partnerships**, which are also expected to develop their own international cooperation strategies. HEU will also extend the participation to associations of third countries with good S&T capacities, taking into account the aim to drive European economic growth to innovation and strive through reciprocity.

### **Success international cooperation stories from the professional higher education and the private sectors**

*Francisco Cuervas, CEO, Ghenova*

Ghenova is an international company located in Spain that delivers multidisciplinary engineering and consultancy services in different areas, such as maritime transports, infrastructure, aeronautics and renewable energy. Ghenova is also one of the many R&I intensive companies, which are the ones that are nowadays more needed in Europe to boost economic growth and create new jobs. In particular, the company is participating in several international projects in the field of digital industry, ports energy and fuels and renewables. A successful example is the W2POWER project, funded by the H2020 programme, which led to the creation of a floating windmill off the Canary Islands shores. Digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence are also quickly becoming important areas of interest for the company, which has been part of several European and international projects in the field.

*James Clarke, EU Strategic Liaison Manager, Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)*

James Clarke, from EURASHE's member Waterford Institute of Technology, presented the H2020-funded project "EUBrazil Cloud Forum", which ran from May 2016 to July 2018. The objective of the project was enabling the European Union and Brazil to formulate a common strategy and approach for R&I in the field of cloud computing, aligned with the priorities of each region. To this aim, the project brought to life:

- A forum for EU-Brazil policy and R&I dialogues, a EU-Brazil R&I;
- A EU-Brazil R&I Roadmap and Action Plan related to Cloud Computing;
- A web based Service Platform to promote the results from the EU-Brazil community and success stories;
- Different events, including a EU-Brazil policy dialogue, Cloudscape Brazil, and cooperation workshops.

*Armando Pires, Advisor for International Affairs/Vice-President, CCISP/EURASHE*

Armando Pires, Vice-President of EURASHE and chair of EURASHE's working group on Applied Research and Regional Development, presented different examples of international cooperation activities between Portuguese Universities of Applied Sciences (called Polytechnics) and Brazilian higher education institutions. These activities take the form of students and staff mobility, double degrees and research projects. Particularly active in international cooperation in R&I the Porto Polytechnic, which recently had and currently has in place different projects with LAC partners in the field of energy efficiency, GMOs, remote labs and design thinking.

*Oscar Gomezo, Journalist*

Oscar Gomezo, a Spanish journalist with a strong experience in working with the LAC region, enriched the panel discussion with a broader perspective on the topic, commenting on how research and innovation are moving in the global field and presenting a project he organised in Central America, which consisted in equipping young people from poor communities with the communications skills they need to overcome technological and social barriers. Oscar also gave an interesting perspective on the current health crisis, outlining how the uncertain situation has given us the courage to accelerate processes that were halted before, to promote new projects and, most importantly, to grow the seeds of research and innovation in the future generation. What is clear is that the health crisis has shown the world that there are many processes that need to be changed, creating an opportunity for further technological and social developments.

### **More and better internationalization for the future**

All the speakers agreed that after the COVID-19 crisis, Europe needs to continue to be open to the world. International cooperation in the field of research and innovation remains crucial to find a common response to global challenges. We therefore need to enhance international cooperation opportunities and organise them in a more strategic and focused way, based on common interests and mutual benefits, but always being guided by European principles and values.