



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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Training Session for Enhancing the FP7 National Information System in Argentina

The Liaison Office Argentina – European Union (ABEST) is organizing a special training session for National Contact Points (NCPs) and Institutional Contact Points (ICPs) for enhancing the National Information System to foster the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) cooperation opportunities in Argentina. The event will be split into two sessions: a private meeting on 14-15 March for Argentinean NCPs; and a public training session on 16 March for representatives of universities and research centers who deal with management and financial issues in international RTD projects, and NCPs from Bolivia and other Latin American countries.

The main speaker of the event will be Paul Jamet, FP7 NCP National Coordinator from France and representative of the Department for European & International Affairs in the Directorate General for Research and Innovation at the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. In addition, Ms Cristina Pinto, South African NCP in Legal and Financial issues will represent the South African Department of Science & Technology (DST) who will share the European South Africa Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP) experiences and present on "Examples of Third Countries NCP systems".

Seating is limited on March 16. Please, RSVP at abest@mincyt.gov.ar or 0054-11-4891-8368/69.



Upcoming events:

Training Session for Argentinean NCPs and ICTs

14-15-16 March 2011 — Buenos Aires, Argentina

EULARINET Workshop: "Telling from experience: the addressing of society's demands through partnerships for technological developments"

16 March 2011 — Helsinki, Finland

Workshop Argentina-South Africa "Information and Communication Technology"

17-18 March 2011 — Pretoria

EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation - Senior Officials Meeting

28-29 March 2011 — Berlaymont Building, Schuman Room, Brussels, Belgium

AERODAYS 2011 – Sixth European Aeronautics Days

30-31 March / 1 April 2011 – Madrid, Spain

First National Workshop on International Cooperation Programmes in Science, Technology and Innovation

30-31 March to 1 April 2011 – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Training Session for Uruguayan SMEs

28-29 April 2011 — Montevideo, Uruguay

New call: "SME – Digital Content and Languages"

This new FP7 ICT call, launched on 1st February, looks for consortia which include a significant proportion of SMEs to work in this field. The call covers four target outcomes:

- Bootstrapping a data economy
- Sharing language resources
- Community building and best practices
- Building consensus and common services

The call is in two stages, with an initial five-page short proposal to be submitted by the deadline of 28th April 2011. Successful proposers at this stage will be invited to submit a full proposal by a deadline of 28th September. 2011.

Argentinean participation in the FP7

The Argentinean participation in the FP7 has improved in the last period. The Argentinean applicant success rate of 26,9% is higher than the average Third Countries applicant success rate of 23,9% (Mexico 24,5%, Brazil 23% and Chile 22,8%).

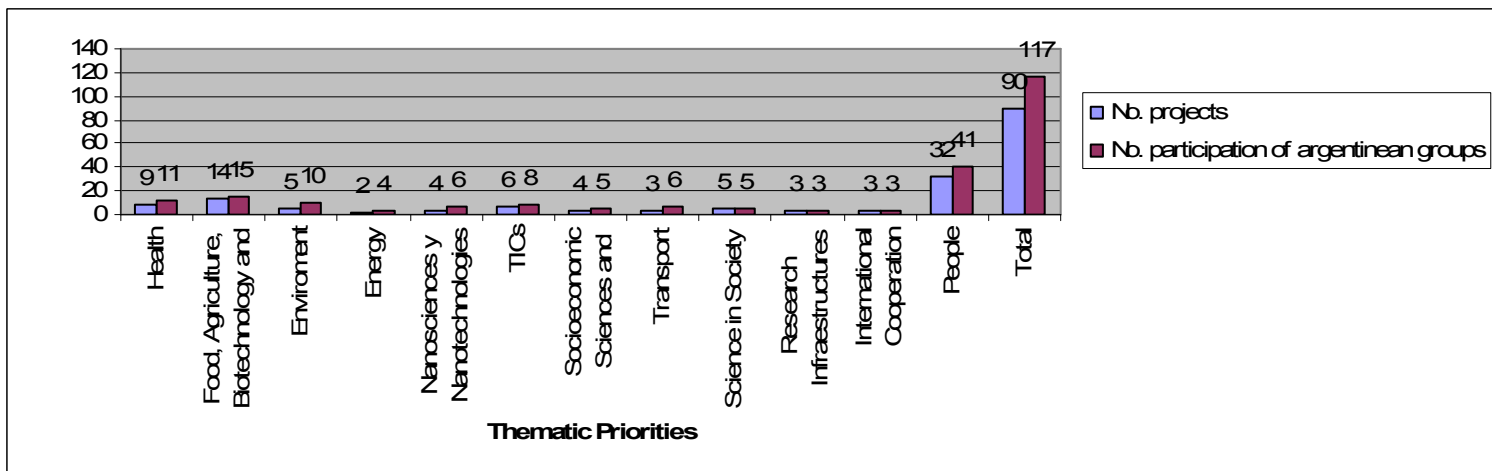
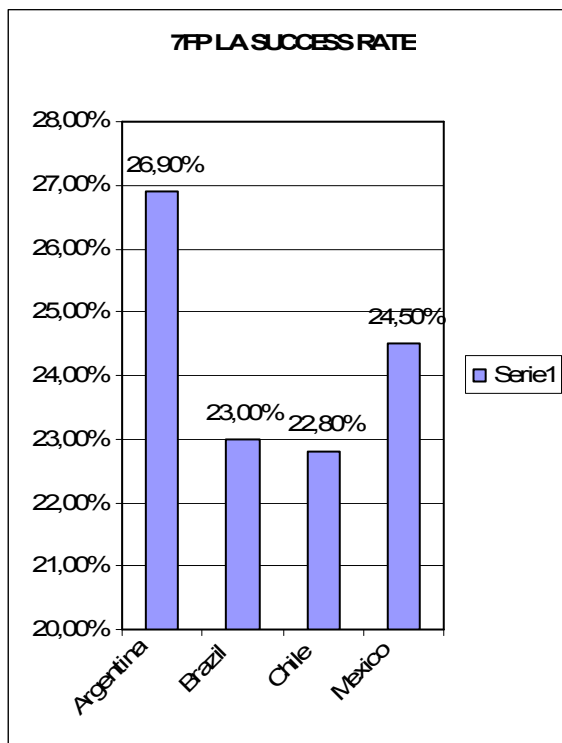
Argentina ranks 12th in terms of number of applicants and 12th in terms of requested EC contribution. A total of 327 eligible proposals were submitted by Argentinean institutions in response to 219 FP7 calls for proposals up to October 26, 2011.

Among the Third Countries in all FP7 signed grant agreements, Argentina ranks 10th in number of participations and 8th in budget share. It

participates in 52 signed grant agreements, receiving a total of EUR 107,32m of EC financial contribution.

Regarding SME performance and participation, Argentina's SME applicant success rate of 21,95% is higher than the Third Countries SME applicant success rate of 19,23%. And the Argentinean SME EC financial contribution success rate of 25,22% is higher than the corresponding Third Countries rate of 13,82%. In the latest calls, from 82 Argentinean SME applicants, 18 (21,95%) were successful requesting EUR 2,41m.

Source: ABEST Observatory



New reciprocal agreement for COST

Argentina has now joined New Zealand, South Africa and Australia in a unique partnership which allows their researchers to be involved in networking opportunities with their European counterparts.

Reciprocal agreements address researchers involved in COST Actions and help them meet colleagues from COST countries involved in COST Actions; to learn from each other and to explore opportunities for working together. COST Action scientists involving official participation from the reciprocal agreement countries are eligible to benefit from these funds mostly in the form

of Short-Term Scientific Missions under a Reciprocal Agreement (RSTSM). An RSTSM must last between a minimum of five days and a maximum of three months, and the agreement covers travel and subsistence expenses to and within the host country.

Argentinean scientists are now able to participate in COST Actions through funding made available by the National Di-

rectorate of International Relations at MINCYT.

For information on COST opportunities for Argentines, contact Ms Inés Menvielle (mimenvielle@mincyt.gov.ar) ABEST Project Official.

<http://www.cost.eu>



ABEST Info Week: FP7 training session for SMEs

With the support of all its partners, the Liaison Office Argentina – European Union (ABEST) organized the ABEST INFO Week to arrange forthcoming cooperation actions and disseminate specific information on FP7 opportunities to SMEs. The events took place from November 29 to December 3, 2010 in Buenos Aires and Cordoba.

ABEST Info Week was structured in three differential phases:

- On November 29, ABEST II consortium had a private project meeting to define the an-

nual work plan and to share what each partner has carried out so far.

- On November 30, CIRAD with the local support of MINCyT organized a meeting to introduce suggestions and best practices from European and Third country Information Services. The same day in the afternoon, MINCyT organized a special open event to disseminate the best practices of Argentinean institutions who have participated in previous FPs. More than sixty people attended, mainly researchers and universities representati-

ves.

- On December 1 and 3, APRE organized with the local support of MINCyT information workshops on opportunities for SMEs in FP7 (Cooperation, capacities and People programmes). These two last workshops were held one in Buenos Aires (45 attendees) and the other in Cordoba province (85 attendees), respectively. In both sessions, Mr. Iacopo De Angelis from APRE presented specific



SMEs opportunities for upcoming FP7 calls and information to improve their participation in EU RTD actions.

All presentations and agendas are available at ABEST website: <http://www.abest.mincyt.gov.ar/en/infoweek2010.php>

Launching of EU-MCyT Nano-SMEs

The Program for Strengthening SME competitiveness and job creation in Argentina EU-MinCyT NanoPymes (NanoSMEs), is funded jointly by the European Union and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation. This Program has a credit line of Euro 19,600,000 and aims at supporting and improving governmental mechanisms for technology transfer to existing SMEs, thus supporting

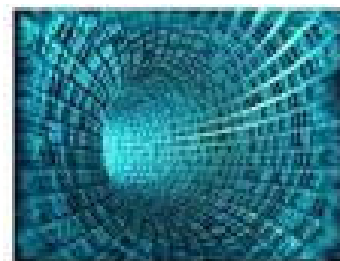
existing SMEs, thus supporting the creation of new technology-based companies.

The project will be implemented nationwide, focusing on strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs through the use of nanotechnology in 4 industrial sectors: Metal Mechanics (including auto parts), Agro-Food, Health & Electronics. The Project will be focused on 5 expected outcomes:

- Improving the level of awareness of SMEs regarding innovation and the introduction of new technologies. Training.

- Increasing cooperation in the field of innovation between research institutes and SMEs.

- Supporting governmental mechanisms for the SMEs in Argentina related to micro- and nanotechnologies. Creation of new technology-based



companies.

- Launching of regional innovation and project funding strategies.

- Creation and strengthening of an Argentinean Technology Platform in micro- and nanotechnology.

Open calls –FP7 People programme

At the moment, there are three open calls in the FP7 People programme:

- 1- Trans-national operation of the "EURAXESS Services Network II" (deadline 30 March 2011)

- 2- Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES) (deadline 17 March 2011)

- 3- Marie Curie Career Integration Grants (CIG) (deadline 8 March 2011)

The People programme provides support for researcher mobility and career development, both for researchers inside the European Union and internationally. It is implemented via a set of Marie Curie actions, providing fellowships and ot-

her measures to help researchers build their skills and competences throughout their careers.

Visit CORDIS website for reaching specific information for each call (work programmes, guides for applicants, deadlines, and budgets).

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home_en.html



3rd Call of the ALFA III Programme

The European Union Delegation in the Republic of Argentina is pleased to inform that on February 7 a new call of the ALFA III Programme has been launched.

ALFA III is intended to meet the necessary conditions required to Carry out actions aimed at promoting regional integration, socioeconomic development and social inclusion in beneficiary countries, in the first two calls for proposals launched in 2008 and 2010 and in this present call as well . In this third consolidation phase the following aspects are emphasized: cooperation for development and institutional strengthening, underpinning the role of higher education in global, balanced and equitable development in Latin

American society; and the promotion of a Joint Area for Higher Education between European Union - Latin America. This is a restricted call for proposals. Initially, only the concept notes should be submitted for evaluation. Thereafter, applicants whose concept notes have been short-listed will be invited to submit a complete application . After the evaluation of complete applications is carried out, the eligibility of applicants who have been provisionally selected shall be verified.

The deadline for submission of concept notes expires on March 25, 2011.

Millionary subsidies to promote solar energy use



The Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, through the National Agency for Science and Technology Promotion, will subsidise projects up to an amount of \$ 30.800.000 each, to promote solar energy use. Funds will be given to innovative projects oriented to solving technological issues and giving support to the productive sector on solar energy exploitation.

Argentina and Spain signed a cooperation agreement on nanotechnology and sustainable energy

Dr. Lino Barañao, Argentina's Minister of Science Technology and Productive Innovation, and Cristina Garmendia, Spain's Minister of Science and Innovation, signed a letter of intention to enhance nanotechnology and renewable resources cooperation between both countries.

This letter includes the intent to jointly motivate collaboration efforts in the nanosciences, nanotechnology and renewable resources areas for the formation and improvement of human resources and technology transference through joint research projects. Also they agreed on the use of equipment and facilities for the development of specific projects and conference, seminars and workshops organization to identify future opportunities. During the event both ministers talked about the start of the Argentina-Spain Binational Center on Vegetable Genomics Research (CEBIGEVE) that will take place in Rosario city, Santa Fe, for the

next two years. The CEBIGEVE is a research and biotechnology development center that will seek to increase the production's added value. It is the first Binational research center with a non-MERCOSUR country and its areas of research are the search of biotic and abiotic stress resistance in plants, molecular farming, genomic projects, food fortification, forest area and animal biology research.

Minister Barañao referred about jointly work in science, technology and innovation: "Both ministries aim towards transforming knowledge investment to wealth, understanding this wealth as prosperity,

quality jobs and as a solution for social problems". The MINCYT-MICINN Cooperation Programme is another work initiative between Argentina and Spain that has Nuclear and Particle Physics, and Theoretical Physics and Particles Astrophysics as cooperation areas whose objective is to facilitate researchers and specialists formation and exchange in those fields of expertise.

11 joint research projects exists between Argentina and Spain in the area of Vegetable Genomics, applied to Health, Forensics and Bioinformatics that started execution on 2010.



Kick Off BIO CIRCLE 2

On January 28th the Bio Circle2 kick off meeting was held in Budapest, and Luciana Aycirix represented MINCYT at the event.

BioCircle2 (www.biocircle-project.eu) is a project funded by the European Commission aimed at strengthening the network of National Contact Points (NCP) for the area Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology (FAFB) Seventh Framework Programme. The project aims to increase the participation of non-European researchers in this area in FP7.

BioCircle 2 consortium is integrated by the NCP's of 16 countries outside Europe, as well as institutions from five European countries. The consortium is led by the Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca European (APRE).

Regarding the previous version, BioCircle 2 incorporates a regional dimension and provides for greater coordination of activities between the projects partners within the same region.

The Third Country BIO NCPs will be grouped in the following World Regions:

	Partners Countries	Regional Coordinator
Africa and Mediterranean Countries	Ghana, South Africa, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco	Ghana (FARA)
Asia and Oceania	Thailand, China, India and New Zealand	India (JNU)
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russia	Kazakhstan
America	Argentina, Chile, Brazil Canada and Mexico	Argentina (MINCYT)



For further information, contact Magdalena Alvarez Arancedo marancedo@mincyt.gov.ar

Erasmus Mundus Argentina 2011: Call for Proposal for Consortium of Universities

The European Commission has recently published the Corrigendum to the Call for Proposals - EACEA/41/10 for the implementation of Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 in 2011.

This Corrigendum to the Call for Proposals 41/01 published on December 16, 2010 increased the budget of Erasmus Mundus Action 2 - Type 1 in 5.2 million euros, reaching a grand total of 100.8 million euros, following the incorporation of Argentina Lote. Individual mobilities increase, consequently, to 210 to reach a total of 3,475 individual mobility.

More information: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/funding/2011/documents/call_41_10/guidelines_corrigendum_lot16argentina_en.pdf

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.

Publications: *ABEST* was selected as a case study in an international cooperation issued by the European Comisión focused on **BILAT** projects

