

Fact sheet BILAT-MEX (UEMEXCYT II)



Updated: August 2009

Project title: Bureau for EU-Mexican Science and Technology Cooperation – Step II
Web page: www.conacyt.mx/uemexcyt/
Start of the project: 01.10.2008
Duration: 36 months
Project coordinator: Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT)
Contact person IB (DLR): Dr. Christoph Aicher (christoph.aicher@dlr.de)

Project partners

	Name	Acronym	Country
1	Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología	CONACYT	Mexico
2	Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona	UAB	Spain
3	Institut de Recherche et Développement	IRD	France
4	Agency for the Promotion of European Re-search	APRE	Italy
5	International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research	PT-DLR	Germany
6	Centre for Social innovation	ZSI	Austria
7	Research & Innovation Management Ser-vices	RIMS	Belgium
8	Centre d'Étude des Relations entre l'Union Européenne et l'Amérique Latine	CERCAL	Belgium

General information about BILAT-Projects

Background: Enhancing the partnership of the EU with third countries, in particular in the frame of existing S&T cooperation agreements.

Objectives: Supporting the sharpening and realization of the bilateral EU-S&T agreements with third countries in practice.

The main **activities** are:

- Improving the process of providing information on programs and funding designed to promote cooperation between Europe and specific third countries (websites, database).

- Better identifying and demonstrating mutual interest and benefit in S&T cooperation between Europe and specific third countries as well as setting priorities.
- Sharing best practices via joint for a such as workshops and presenting the state of the art and the prospects for cooperation in particular fields.
- Provide support for the implementation of S&T cooperation and for the search of relevant and suitable partners.

Project description

In 2004 an "Agreement on Scientific and Technological Co-operation between the European Community and Mexico" was signed by the European Commission and Mexico represented through the Mexican National Council for Research and Technological Development (CONACyT). The creation of the „Bureau for European and Mexican Science and Technology Cooperation" (UEMEXCyT) was one of the first initiatives in order to achieve the general goals outlined in the agreement. The Bureau is located at CONACyT and is financed jointly by the Directorate-General for Research and CONACyT.

The objective of UEMEXCyT is to provide information and offer consultancy in order to rise within the Mexican R&D landscape the visibility and consciousness of the opportunities cooperation with the EU contain and in order to facilitate the access for Mexican researchers and Mexican small and medium enterprises (SME) to existing S&T programs of the EU and in particular to the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7).

For Mexico the cooperation with the EU is a central element of its strategy to internationalize its S&T policy. Thus, S&T agreements between Mexico and the EU enjoy high priority in the bilateral relationships.

The **major objectives** of the second phase of the Office for EU-Mexican Science and Technology Cooperation (UEMEXCYT II) will focus on the following main issues:

- Setting up a consolidated dialogue between the major stakeholders in Mexico and the EU responsible for the EU-Mexican S&T Cooperation (CONACyT, Member States Ministries and National Contact Points, Commission Services, coordination and support actions such as the INCONET with Latin America (EULARINET), the ERA-NET for Latin America (EULANEST), LAC-ACCESS.
- Evaluating past, present and future collaborations between Mexico and European Union in the S&T sector and proposing ways of optimizing the rules and instruments;
- Raising awareness, links and training on specific issues;
- Generating partnership opportunities between scientific and technological communities from both sides;
- Improving the visibility of existing results and potential collaborations between Europe and Mexico in the science and technological sector.
- Assuming the role of a key LA partner for Europe in coordination with the other Latin American Bureaus for the promotion of the European S&T Cooperation.

Responsibilities of the International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (DLR)

Co-leader of working package 4 (WP4): Organization of a Fact Finding Missions for Mexican researchers in Europe together with APRE.
Support and co-operation in all other WPs.

Highlights

- Kick-off-meeting on October 1-2 in 2008 in Brussels.
- Second meeting of the Project Management Board (PMB) in Brussels (February 5, 2009) and meeting with high ranking representatives of CONACyT.

State of affairs and intermediate results

- A query of European S&T experts (researchers and research oriented SME) considering the interest of cooperation in S&T with Mexican partners has been launched as well as a query on the Mexican side (WP1). The results of this query will feed a data bank which is supposed to be published by CONACyT soon.
- In August thematic workshops will be organized in Mexico. They will inform Mexican researchers on notices of the EU-Commission regarding the FP7 and encourage them to participate in FP7 calls.

Planned activities 2009

A visibility Forum will be organized at the end of October, addressed to the science and technology community of Mexico, in particularly to Directors of research, technology development, innovation, linkage areas or international offices of Research Centers, HEIs, local Councils of S&T, etc. The main intention of this is to make them aware and sensitive to the needs and support that their researchers and technologists require, when they want to participate in FP7 calls.

The PMB meeting will take place at the same time and the Advisory Board installation. This event considers sharing some activities with the FONCICYT program. The meetings also aims to gain the presence of other BILAT programs (Argentina, Chile and Brazil) in order to encourage political and technical dialogue, share experiences and foster cooperation for LatAm SICAs.

Source: International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (DLR)