



Alliance for the Information Society

# @LIS Newsletter



<http://www.alis-online.org>

@lis is a European Commission's strategic cooperation programme between Europe and Latin America aimed to promote economic development and citizen participation in the global Information Society.

## Special Interest Topics:

- Second Coordination Meeting in Panama
- Integra project
- Cibernarium project



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## @lis, eighteen months later

### CIBERNARIUM

ENTRENANDO A LOS NIÑOS EN LA INDUSTRIA DE LA INFORMACIÓN Y COMUNICACIÓN DIGITAL



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The opinions expressed in this publication don't necessarily reflect the European Commission opinion.





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## 1. Topic:

<http://www.alis-online.org/>

@LIS Community met in Panama last May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, and June 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss and compare the developments and results of @LIS's projects after working for a year and a half.

The meeting, organized by @LIS-ISN in close collaboration with the @LIS team from the *European Commission's EuropeAid Office*, had a large representation from all the demonstration projects, nets and dialogues, and from nearly all the EC Delegations in Latin America: 112 delegates (61 European and 51 American) participated in the meeting.

The main result of the event was to confirm that @LIS programme is more than a funding mechanism: is an innovative programme, with an enough size to generate a politic interest, and above all is an integrated action, in the sectorial (different Information Society fields are represented) and actorial (different actor categories take part in the Programme) sense.

Among the results, we can mention:

- *Establishment and strengthening of contacts among @LIS's projects that are going to promote the networking in the Programme. The identification of synergy possibilities has advanced.*
- *Identification and discussion of the projects' sustainability needs. Different projects have not only different needs to improve their sustainability possibilities but also different visions about their sustainability.*
- *@LIS Community, in eLAC 2007 plan framework ([www.cepal.org/socinfo](http://www.cepal.org/socinfo)), has recognized the importance of having common positions about focal topics on Information Society through recommendations and policy papers.*
- *@LIS Community has expressed the importance of being open regarding the collaborations among @LIS's projects and partners and with other actors. Also we have to be open to new innovative possibilities and to different development and sustainability models.*

It was also highly interesting, particularly for the actors not directly related to @LIS, the intention of all the @LIS projects to meet soon to spread their achieved results. In order to have a global view of all the @LIS's actions results, alis-online web site is preparing an **@LIS's projects results/products showcase**. This will be available in October.

## 2. Upcoming Events

<http://www.alis-online.org/>

### August:

- *15th-19th August, Guarulhos Poupatempo, Sao Paulo (Brazil):* eGoia Phase I Demonstrator will be operating with a small set of public services through the Internet. *25th August:* eGoia Workshop Invited guests from federal, state and municipal governments will discuss about government policies and technical aspects.
- *August/September:* Beginning of the 3rd Tutorized ADITAL Courses period through an e-learning platform.

### September:

- *1st-4th September, Shanghai (China):* 27th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society. T@lemed will present its project.
- *12th-16th September, Cartagena (Colombia):* Course on Internet, IP voice and Third Generation Nets. By Regulatel.
- *19th-30th September, Spain-Denmark:* Technical visit of a computer technician and an agronomist from each Latin American ADITAL partner to the partners in Spain and Denmark. The aim is to learn advances in these both fields to apply them, if possible, in Latin America.

### October:

- *19th-21st October, Ljubljana (Slovenia):* E-Challenges 2005, a series of annual conferences stressed on e-Government, e-Business, e-Work and e-Europe beyond 2005, supported by the European Commission. Met@logo and Link All present their projects.
- *23rd-26th October, Sao Paulo (Brazil):* International Telemedicine Society Congress. The event is organized by the Brazilian Telemedicine and Telehealth Council and will take place in Rebouças Conventions Centre.
- *31st October - 2nd November, Las Leñas, Mendoza (Argentina):* After two years of intense work, Atlas de la Diversidad organizes a Participants Meeting in Las Leñas. Educators, pupils (over 12 years old) and collaborators of the different countries where the project is developed will take part of the meeting.

### 3. Latest News and developments:

<http://www.alis-online.org/>



- Second Alis Coordination Meeting in Ciudad del Saber in Panama the 30th, 31st of May and 1st of June. The documents and the projects' presentations can be found at [www.alis-online.org](http://www.alis-online.org).



- Health Care Network Project is organizing a Telehealth training program in September 2005 in Finland in order to increase and exchange the knowledge of the Brazilians and Finnish partners on that e-Health field. This exchange opportunity is offered by the North Karelian Hospital District (city of Joensuu)
- The @LIS Health Care Network Project is going to enter in an important phase: the evaluation process of the technological projects in Belo Horizonte. This evaluation is performed by the city Hall of Trento (IT) and the Roskilde University (DK), between the months of September – October 2005. The aim is to analyze the social impact of the new e-Health services being implemented so far in the city of Belo Horizonte by the HCN project, and to discover if there is an effective increase of the quality of service offered by the city health system to the citizens.



- A new web subsite was released by the European Commission [Information Society Programme](#) for Latin America and Caribbean (**CEPAL**)
- Conceived as a virtual meeting space for experts, enterprisers, governments, international organizations and civil society, aims to promote public policies, stimulate regional cooperation, give analytic and technical support and following in order to elaborate and start up strategies for the development of the Information Society.



- Zero issue of the International Quarter Journal at [www.nib.jiq.org](http://www.nib.jiq.org) about “The right to vote for foreigners”.



- T@LEMED participated to the Globaltech fair, in Porto Alegre, Brazil, from May 17<sup>th</sup> to May 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a huge event with more than 78.000 visitors. T@lemed project presented the medical deployed platform in Brazil at the fair. A number of tele-consultations and live demonstrations of the system were performed. In addition, a compact and portable telemedicine station was brought to the Globaltech fair.
- T@lemed extends its current medical network to Mostardas, Cidreira, and São Mateus.



- A Colombian delegation, led by the Colombian Town Councils Federation and consisted of three majors and different public representatives, visited the city of San Sebastián to strengthen the knowledge interchange related to new technologies and local economic development projects.
- The presence of Honorio Galvis Aguilar, major of Bucaramanga specially stood out because this city collaborates intensely with Emplenet project. In Bucaramanga the project is reaching its first results with the New Technologies Center.



- Met@logo was chosen from 80 projects to be one of the 42 projects which will be presented at the conference "Reforming the Business Environment - From Assessing the Problems to Measuring the Results" in Cairo. More than 350 participants from international donors (World Bank, IFC, ILO etc.) will participate and some important speakers such as Michael Klein (World Bank Vice-President for Private Sector Development and Chief Economist of IFC), Ernesto Zedillo (Director, Yale Centre for Globalisation, former President of Mexico) and Axel Peuker (World Bank) will attend the conference.



- Link All has been chosen as well as Met@logo to present their projects in e-challenges 2005 in Ljubljana.
- In the Link All web page we can visit the local communities forming part of the project and observe the already reached results. [www.link-all.org/focus/](http://www.link-all.org/focus/)



The project "European and Latin American Consortium for IST Enhanced Continued Education in Environmental Management and Planning (ELAC)" is pleased to announce the III International Conference on "Virtual Learning and Sustainable Development: The Role of the Universities".

The objective of the upcoming conference is to share with the national and international communities the experiences and lessons learned by the participating universities in the ELAC project; thereby opening the topic areas of the project in a conference setting and inviting external participation and contribution so as to maximize the potential impact and opportunity for synergy and interchange of experiences.

The conference will take place on 22 February, 2006, at the Universidad Nacional, in Heredia, Costa Rica.

A call for papers is open and extended abstracts (not exceeding 2-pages) can be submitted until 1 October 2005. Additional information is available at: [www.cinpe.una.ac.cr/investigacion/proyectos/elac](http://www.cinpe.una.ac.cr/investigacion/proyectos/elac)



- Latest version of ADITAL web page with the partner's requested changes.
- All the partners will participate in the World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society in Bilbao, Spain, in November. A paper will be presented and there will be a stand about the project.



- Between August 15 – 19, eGoia Phase I Demonstrator will be operating in Guarulhos Poupatempo with a small set of public services through the Internet. This first Demonstrator will support front-office and back-office processes and data integration, including integration with legacy systems and data. The set of government services selected in Brazil is related to the civil identification domain. As the ID card issuing services are the most demanded services among several services related to identification, the selected services include ID card cancellation, ID card replacement request and ID card status request.



- From October 31st to November 2nd, after two years of intense work, Atlas de la Diversidad project organizes a Participants Meeting in Las Leñas, Mendoza, Argentina. Educators, pupils (over 12 years old) and collaborators of the different countries where the project is developed will take part of the meeting in order to share face-to-face all the on-line work already done.

It will be a meeting where we will keep on learning collaboratively, playing and sharing ATLAS experiences!



- Last June 23rd and 24th took place in Lima (Peru) the Course on Services Interconnection and Telecommunication Nets. This presentational stage ended the course after a successful virtual stage through the Internet between May 30th and June 17th.
- 8th REGULATEL/AHCIET Regulators and Operators Summit was celebrated last June 11th and 12th in the city of Asunción (Paraguay). This event was a complete success and had an active participation of important representatives from regulator organizations and telecommunication enterprises from Latin America and Spain.



- The @mazonian information Net Silae-R@is, is actually operating with 42 Internet access points in councils, Parochial meetings, indigene organizations and certain educative centres in the Ecuadorian Amazon. As well as this, an Internet access point has been installed in the Amawtay Wasi Intercultural University See, in the city of Quito; in the Council for the Development of the Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador office (CODENPE); and in the Ecuador's Provincial Council Consortium (CONCOPE).

- After having the Internet points installed, SILAE has begun the Training Courses for SILAE correspondents of R@is Net. The first course was developed between June 20th and 22nd in Coca, province of Orellana and the second course took place in Puyo, province of Pastaza the days July 13th and 14th.

- If you want to contact to the R@is Net member councils, then write to: [municipios\\_silae@silae.org.ec](mailto:municipios_silae@silae.org.ec); to the organizations: [organizaciones\\_silae@silae.org.ec](mailto:organizaciones_silae@silae.org.ec); to the parochial meetings: [jparroquiales\\_silae@silae.org.ec](mailto:jparroquiales_silae@silae.org.ec); and with the educative centres: [educativos\\_silae@silae.org.ec](mailto:educativos_silae@silae.org.ec).



- The Spanish Health Minister, Elena Salgado, gave the prize "Fundación Abbott a la Cooperación Sanitaria con Iberoamérica" last July 7th to EHAS project. This prize is worth 30.000 €. The project was presented by representatives of Ingenieros Sin Fronteras.

## 5. @LIS project: Cibernarium

<http://www.alis-cibernarium.org>

**CIBERNARIUM**

ENTORNO PRÁCTICO EN LA CAPACITACIÓN  
Y DESARROLLO DIGITAL

### Description

The project "@lis-Cybernarium, pedagogical settings for IT literacy" was born from the need of the cities of Barcelona, San Sebastian, Tampere and Brussels in Europe, and Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre, David, Quito and the Maule region in Latin America, to combat the digital challenge.

Based on this need, the aim of the project is to develop innovative local strategies so as to combat the existing digital gap in the 9 cities by means of

three major projects to be carried out over three years: the Cybernarium project, the CyberTV project and the Cyberweb project.

The starting point of this project is the experience of the Cybernarium in the city of Barcelona (Spain), the multi-purpose internet space that for the last six years has offered training and skills acquisition to students, professionals and business people of the city in the use of new technologies.

The Cybernarium project aims to facilitate the development and setting in motion of 9 Cybernariums in the nine partner cities of the project. The city of Barcelona, the coordinating partner of the project, has transferred the methodology for the adaptation of the Cybernarium to the other partners, and offers them advice and supervision in setting up these spaces for digital skills acquisition.

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It is foreseen that all of the actions carried out within the framework of the @lis-Cybernarium project will benefit around 5 million people, directly or indirectly.

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### Development

One and a half years on, there already exist 6 Cybernariums totally adapted and equipped and that are working to the full, offering their citizens training and skills acquisition activities: the Cybernarium of Sao Paulo in the OLIDO Cultural Centre, the Cybernarium of Porto Alegre located in the emblematic *USINA do GASOMETRO*, the Cybernarium of David situated in the *Palacio Municipal* of the city, el Cybernarium of Maule constructed in a Colonial building let to them by the Municipality of Talca, the Cybernarium of San Sebastian that can be found in the Cultural Centre in the neighbourhood of Intxaurrondo and the Cybernarium of Tampere which is located in the public library of Tampere.

Parallel to the adaptation of the Cybernariums, an extensive catalogue of contents and materials are being developed for technological diffusion and skills acquisition which will be provided in the 9 Cybernariums with the aim of improving knowledge, access, use and optimisation of ICT for the users.

After one and a half years these materials are being completely developed. The city of San Sebastian is responsible for a software for the management of the Cybernarium activities and a browser software for accessing contents from the browsing room of the Cyber-

nariums. Brussels is developing a simulator for self-access technological learning and 12 applications for self-access training. Tampere is responsible for 6 e-learning courses, and finally all the partners are collaborating on the creation of a catalogue of 180 audiovisuals that show how ICT has contributed to people's personal and professional conditions. All these products will be delivered next January during the third meeting of the partners that will take place in the city of Talca, Chile.

The @lis-Cybernarium project represents a step forward in digital literacy given that, compared with the tele-centres, all the Cybernariums will be supplied with contents for diffusion and provided with actions for training and skills acquisition.

#### Cybertelevision:

Given that television is the main means of diffusion, the CyberTelevision project aims to get closer to a greater number of people the possibilities of ICT, and awaken interest in adapting with ease to the Knowledge Society. The CyberTelevision is a programme from the TV series Global-Local which has been going round Latin America and Europe in search of experiences and initiatives with a common aim: for the citizens

to get into the Knowledge Society.

Over these last one and a half years, the producer LUA Multimedia, a private partner of the project, in collaboration with the 9 cities and under the intellectual supervision of professor Manuel Castells, has been charged with the production of 10 TV programmes of the series Global-Local.

The programme will be officially presented next January in the city of Talca (Chile) and offered free of charge to those cities of Europe and Latin America who wish to broadcast it on local and sector television channels.

The seminar on Training Trainers will take place in the cities of Brussels and Tampere from 25<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2005. For the organisation of this seminar we count on the collaboration of the Region of Brussels, the digital literacy centre Teknoweb, the City of Tampere and the Polytechnic University of Tampere. During this meeting a total of 9 trainers from the different Cybernariums will meet up for a week to acquire more pedagogical knowledge and to exchange experiences related to the activities of the Cybernariums.

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The @lis-Cybernarium project has been presented to the public and the actors in the different settings and has been well received and with great interest by other cities and institutions who want to join the project and benefit from the products we are developing.

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The third meeting of the partners of the project will take place in the Maule Region, Chile, from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2006, and has as its aim the delivery and exchange of the pedagogical contents and materials for digital skills acquisition and spread which have been developed over the first two years of the project.

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## INTEGRA



## 4. @LIS project: Integra

<http://www.integraproject.org/>

## Description

Integra project is funded by the European Commission's EuropeAid Office, in @LIS's programme framework. This project is aimed to develop and improve the knowledge and use of Information and Communication Technologies in 20 school institutions through a pedagogical and gestional use of these technologies. This demonstration project develops

thanks to eleven partners in collaboration. These partners are coordinated by ISMB (Istituto Superiore Mario Boella sulle tecnologie dell'informazione e delle telecomunicazioni) which mission consists of research promoting and training in order to create an excellence pole in ICT's field.

Integra project is implementing in Latin America

(Argentina, Uruguay and Chile) aiming to achieve a secondary schools' net that could become, thanks to the project, innovation and excellence centres (CedeI) in experimental didactic use of ICTs. These centres will also provide services to less developed schools in their area.

## Development

To reach this objective in Integra's twenty months activity, several activities were made. Among them, two Regional Workshops (Buenos Aires, February 2004; Valparaíso, July 2004) were especially important because of the important results achieved and consolidated.

Last July 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, took place the Third Integra Regional Workshop in the city of Montevideo. Some members of the European Commis-

sion, public authorities, members from the twenty involved schools as well as experts and representatives of the partners' institutions participated in this workshop.

The Regional Workshop preceded of a two-day workshop in Buenos Aires on the Open Source use in the framework of Integra's activities. The workshop, carried out with a training-action methodology, gave a view of the advantages and disadvantages

offered by the open source, also relevant for the project's sustainability.

ORT University in Uruguay (project's partner and general referent for the Uruguayan involved schools) was the Montevideo's workshop host. Thanks to the partners' collaboration, to the general coordinator ISMB, to the enthusiasm and professionalism of the CedeIs members and to all the participants, an excellent and fruitful work could be done.

The main strength points of the project are the enthusiasm and will of the educational team; the Cedels' projects, adapted to the needs of each school; the support and experience of the project's partners and the coherence with the involved educative authorities' policies.

## Results

Among the most important concepts achieved in the workshop opening act the following one is especially relevant: Integra project has consolidated with the twenty CedeIs' development and now is entering the most important stage, the multiplication to other schools, which is not the end stage for the CedeIs but the real beginning of their activity. These Innovation Centres will offer their knowledge and skills, acquired thanks to Integra.

The main strength points of the project are the enthusiasm and will of the educational team; the CedeIs' projects, adapted to the needs of each school; the support and experience of the project's partners and the coherence with the involved educative

authorities' policies.

In the Second Coordination Meeting, Integra established specific cooperation agreements with four of them. In the case of **Atlas de la Diversidad** it was agreed that Atlas will welcome CedeI students to make a "portrait" of the schools and, hence, become part of the virtual community encompassing over 2,000 schools that have already done this. INTEGRA will collaborate in the development of training materials for the staff and the teachers who want to make the most of the participation of their school in Atlas.

**E-lane** will collaborate with INTEGRA in benchmarking technological platforms for on-line contents taking Elane standards as a

model. CedeIs shall have access to counselling on the development or adjustments of their platforms. **Elac** shall provide access to INTEGRA's C e d e I teachers to training courses. The training of teachers who want to turn their courses into virtual ones is especially interesting for us. **Red Clara** provided INTEGRA information on access points to national networks affiliated to Red Clara, and in INTEGRA participating countries who could offer a higher connectivity in those cases where there is an agreement between the local educational authority and a focal point.

## 7. Topic: Information Society opens a window of opportunities. Rio Conference.

ECLAC Press Note

"Conditions are extraordinarily favourable to our taking a historic step forward. The information society that is emerging is a global reality and we will have to bring it to life at the regional level," said José Luis Machinea, ECLAC Executive Secretary, during the official opening of the *Regional Preparatory Ministerial Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean*, which took place June 8<sup>th</sup> 2005 in Rio de Janeiro.

Brazil's acting Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Minister of Planning, Budget and Management; the Minister of Science and Technology; the Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro; and the Mayor of the City of Rio de Janeiro, were among the authorities in attendance.

The meeting, organized by the Brazilian government with support from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), forms part of the preparations for the *World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)*, whose second phase will take place next November in Tunis. The first phase took place in Geneva in 2003. Participants in this meeting include ministers and representatives of Latin American and Caribbean governments, international and multilateral bodies, civil society and the private sector. It was extended until June 10<sup>th</sup> 2005.

José Luis Machinea proposed creating an Action Plan for building a dynamic, open and inclusive information society. "The new technologies are tools for strengthening development and democracy, along with overcoming poverty," he said, as he suggested four areas for reflection. These were universal

access, building of the new skills and know-how necessary for the information society, transformation of the State, and the development of digital strategies.

Latin America and the Caribbean have made important strides in connectivity. From 1998 to 2004 the number of fixed telephones almost doubled (from 53 million to almost 93 million), while mobile phones multiplied 8.5 times (from 20 million to 172 million) and the number of Internet users multiplied 12 times (from 6 million to 72 million). Given these per capita indicators, "It is evident that Latin America is approaching developed countries," he said.

Success is relative, however. In rural and low-density areas, micro businesses and the poorest sectors have not received the benefits from expansion of broad band access to the Internet. Only 14% of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean has access to the Internet, compared to over 50% in developed countries.

To close this gap, "an innovative combination of public policies is necessary". The first element involves modernization of regulatory systems to encourage competition within telecommunications markets and investment in universal access and making the most of the thousands of infocentres, telecentres, Internet posts and cybercafes that are already operating.

The second challenge is to develop the new skills necessary for the information society. All countries are making an enormous educational effort to ensure students and teachers have access to digital technologies. "Although we

know the pressure this puts on public spending, it is important that this continue over time, because it is a basic condition for progress toward knowledge-based economies."

Third, Mr Machinea noted that public sector digitalization is another important factor in encouraging this development, since the public sector uses technologies and digital networks on a massive scale, touching off a chain reaction that encourages companies and citizens to use the Internet widely.

New technologies help to improve public efficiency, smooth coordination within governments, aid supervision and enforcement, reduce bureaucracy and improve citizens' access to public information, which all strengthen democracy. Digital networks and technologies are particularly useful for strengthening the government's social policy and functions, especially in municipalities located in poor and isolated regions and sectors lagging behind, such as health care and legal systems.

Finally, Mr Machinea underlined the importance of every government having a digital development strategy, consistent public policies, and an increasingly robust coordinating body, without ever losing sight of the fact that this always requires an extensive dialogue with civil society and the private sector.



CEPAL

[www.cepal.org](http://www.cepal.org)

For several years now, ECLAC has examined how digital networks and technologies are spread, the design of public policies for digital development, and ways to promote regional cooperation. Now, with support from the European Union through Action 1 of its @LIS programme, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), have started a programme to support governments' efforts in this sense.



## 11. Other institutions: ECLAC – Elac2007

<http://www.cepal.org/socinfo>

The Latin American and Caribbean countries have made an extraordinary effort during the last five years in order to formulate politic declarations about strategic orientation and guiding principles for public policies on the Information Society [1]. In this process, the countries took advantage of ECLAC's collaboration to elaborate a regional vision as it was stated in the Florianópolis Declaration (July 2000), the Bávaro Declaration (January 2003) and in the Rio Agreement (June 2005).

Thanks to the European Union's support through its @lis programme's Action 1, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Institute for the Americas' Connectivity (ICA) as well as a close cooperation with other countries and international organizations, ECLAC has strengthened its activities in Latin America and Caribbean since year 2000 [2].

One of the main guidelines that has been present in ECLAC's [3] constant thinking is the integrated vision of development, conceiving it from a global view. This vision goes beyond a correct interaction among social, economic and environmental policies and democratic order, among human capital, social welfare, sustainable development and citizenship: it must be understood as development's sense itself [4]. The "objective-function" that has guided ECLAC's actions intends to find a balance between economic factors (the main order) and social justice and democratic politics. ECLAC has also always understood that development needs important transforma-

tions, even deep transformations, of productive, occupational and distributive structures as well as institutional changes in order to get involved in the Information Society way. Any development's aspect could be understood as a spontaneous process but more as a deliberate effort result. This deliberate and systematic effort of Governments, economic actors and civil society is made in order to reach technically viable and socially fair economic options.

During the last decade nearly all the Caribbean and Latin American countries have started public policies aiming to use Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as tools for an economic and social development. In some countries the digital agenda is, more and more, an integral part of the general development agenda. These policies are spreading in Latin American and Caribbean countries, so they are opening new possibilities like cooperating among them, interchanging better practices, creating scale economies and reduce the training costs.

In this context, in the framework of the Preparatory Ministerial Summit for WSIS in Tunis, which took place in Rio de Janeiro in June 2005, the Executive Secretary for ECLAC told the countries to take part of the historic moment in order to advance from politic agreements and declarations to actions, identifying appropriate tools and norms and promoting specific projects and initiatives. Taking advantage of the politic visibility that the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) gives, and of the

existing politic agreement about the similitude of challenges and opportunities for development that ICTs open, the countries elaborated and approved a Regional Action Plan for 2005-2007 (eLAC 2007). This seems to be the first step to prioritize and elaborate concrete projects in the long way to reach the ambitious objectives from the WSIS' Action Plan and the Millennium Aims for year 2015.

With its 30 concrete and measurable aims, eLAC 2007 points out three potential profits:

- In depth knowledge and comprehension in critical areas in order to support the definition, implementation and evaluation of policies, for example the current debate on digital television (aim 7), open source software and free software (aim 8), government and Internet (aim 14) and necessary funding mechanisms (aim 23).
- Create, promote and reinforce concrete regional initiatives and projects, for example reinforce the regional infrastructure (aim 1), research nets interconnection (aim 10), link of educative web sites (aim 16), natural catastrophes management nets interconnection (aim 18) and creation and centralization of indicators and statistics (aim 26).
- Support the implementation of national initiatives through an intra-regional technologic transference and capacities construction, in areas such as community access centres sustainability (aim 2),

[1] This effort is reflected in the following declarations: [Florianópolis Declaration \(July 2000\)](#), [Itacuruçá Declaration \(October 2000\)](#), [Group of Rio's Foreign Affairs Ministers' decision to constitute a work group on ITs \(March 2001\)](#), [America's Connectivity Agenda and Quito's Action Plan \(August 2002\)](#), [Bávaro Declaration \(January 2003\)](#) and [Rio de Janeiro Commitment \(June 2005\)](#).

[2] See <http://www.cepal.org/socinfo> for details from the Information Society Programme which is being executed by the ECLAC's Productive Development Division.

[3] Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean was created on february 25th 1948. The Latin American and Caribbean 33 countries are ECLAC's members as well as some North American and European nations which have historic, economic or cultural links with the region's countries. Altogether there are 41 member states and 7 associate members, agreed condition for some non-independent Caribbean territories. ECLAC (2000), "Equity, development and citizenship"

ICTs in schools, health centres and town councils (aims 3, 4 and 6), cooperation in digital literacy, e-government and e-justice (aims 9, 15 and 19).

The idea behind eLAC 2007 is to strengthen national strategies and show a positive result of international cooperation in a short period of time. This is to make sure that this crucial initiative for the region's development

doesn't lose importance in the political agendas once the World Summit's visibility decreases after its second stage. The most important idea in eLAC 2007 is the creation of strategic alliances between institutions and persons who think that coordinated action can reach some results that individual action can not. All this without having to renounce to particular interests. In this context, ECLAC, cooperating with

other agencies and international, regional and sub-regional organizations, supports the countries in the creation of cooperation scales and models that could contribute to the WSIS' world agenda.



## 12. From the Cooperation Office EuropeAid: ALFA

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/alfa/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/alfa/index_en.htm)

### Description

ALFA Programme is included in the cooperation policy in higher education developed by the European Commission. This policy is based in supporting higher education institutions in the European Union and in Latin America by the creation of nets.

Higher education institutions' nets creation means a cooperation framework among countries and regions which contributes to their local abilities' development by interchanging knowledge and experience. This cooperation guarantees its compatibility with the national education policies of the different countries involved and with the EC cooperation for development's strategy.

The programme's second stage (2000-2005) consisted of 10 selection rounds. Through them, different quality projects concerning to several academic areas have

been approved. The programme is developing according to the forecasts and ALFA is already achieving results. ALFA Programme's objectives are being reached. These objectives are: establishment and reinforcement of cooperation mechanisms on higher education field, improvement of human resources and academic staff quality in higher education institution and the possibility of recognizing study periods as well as promoting collaboration methods between Universities and their environment.

In ALFA Programme we must stress the New Technologies' presence applied to education in projects such as distance education laboratories, virtual classrooms creation or specialized electronic libraries. Among the ALFA projects we can find some aimed to the development of interactive software and didactic material in order to

support computer aided learning. There are also other projects concerning Information and Communications Systems.

In this Newsletter's next issue a selection of these projects with a special emphasis in the ones related to new technologies and information society in higher education will be presented as well as some of their achieved results.

To finish it is worth to say that generally ALFA Programme is still being interesting in the European and Latin American academic world. The quality of cooperation is increasing because of a training and support process to higher education institutions. This affects the social and geographical environment as a networking fruit.




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#### INTERESTING LINKS

General Information:  
[europeaid-infoalfa@cec.eu.int](mailto:europeaid-infoalfa@cec.eu.int)

[Programme's web Page](#)

[Approved projects' list](#)

[Approved projects' compendium](#)

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