



APORTA

Supporting EU Access to Brazilian National research programmes –
Acesso por Ciência e Tecnologia no Brasil

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Kick-off conference and report

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Authors (Partner)	CNPq and IRD		
Deliverable Owner (Partner)	Paulo Cesar SIQUEIRA (CNPq)	E-mail	Psiqueira@Cnpq.Br
		Phone	+55 61 2108-9432

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Minutes of the Kick-off conference with programme owners in Brazil

1 Introduction

The launching seminar of the project APORTA (Access to Science and Technology in Brazil, Supporting EU Access to Brazilian National Research Programmes) was held on the 19th of April 2010 at the headquarters of CNPq, Brasilia. APORTA aims at enhancing the access opportunities, and hence the active cooperation of EU member states research institutions in the national research and innovation programmes facilitated by Brazil. This includes raising awareness among Brazilian authorities of Science and Technology (S&T) about the opportunities for cooperation with the European Union (EU).

The conference followed the following agenda:

1. Opening Session – Directors of CNPq, Glaucius Oliva and José Oswaldo Siqueira;
2. Introduction Session:
 - APORTA project – Matthias Frattini, representative of DLR, Germany;
 - The first results of the APORTA project – Patrick Séchet, IRD representative, and Paulo César Siqueira, CNPq representative;
 - Political aspects of the cooperation experience in S&T between Brazil and the European Union – Counselor Ademar Cruz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Performance Evaluation of Brazil in the Seventh Framework Programme – Angel Landabaso, Scientific Attaché at the Delegation of the European Union;
 - Presentation of B.Bice, the Brazilian Bureau for Enlargement of the Cooperation with EU and its activities performed in Brazil – Paulo Egler, Director of BBICE;
 - Presentation of the Lattes Platform – Geraldo Sorte, General Coordinator of Informatics of CNPq.
3. Discussion session about opportunities and reciprocal benefits of access to S&T programmes in Brazil and in EU, moderated by Prof. Moacyr Martucci, of USP.
4. Closing session – Professor José Monserrat, Chief of Foreign Affairs Advisement, Ministry of Science and Technology.

2 Opening Session

The opening of the seminar for launch of the project APORTA in Brazil had the participation of Dr. Glaucius Oliva, Director of Horizontal and Instrumental Programs, of Dr. José Oswaldo Siqueira, director of Sector and Thematic Programs of CNPq, and of Dr. Matthias Frattini, representing the project coordination and DLR Germany, as well the participation of Dr. Jean-Loup Guyot, representative of IRD-France in Brazil. On that occasion, the directors of CNPq emphasized the importance of this project as a catalyst to strengthen and increase the cooperation with the European Union, not only for mapping and identifying opportunities for the participation of European scientists in Brazilian programs, but mostly for enabling these researchers to come to Brazil to engage in

priorities research areas of the country and thus promote greater interaction in Research & Development. Professor Glaucius emphasized how important it was for the country to have had a great number of Brazilian students trained abroad, mainly in Europe, for many years. Due to that fact, now Brazil occupies the 13th place in the world scientific production, and it also develops important projects in the FP7. He also emphasized the relevance of national research networks as a tool to support cooperation and he pointed out that the project should also bring about opportunities for cooperation in the field of innovation. Furthermore, the project will promote research through networks complying with the S&T national priorities and the strategic vision of CNPq as far as research goes.

Prof. Siqueira said that Brazil is preparing itself for a new phase after the “Program of Acceleration of Growth in S&T” (PACCT), beginning a new development process which aims at the good and efficient use of natural energy resources, as the preparations for the launch of the “Program Legal Amazon” whose objective is to promote innovation for proper exploration of resources and sustainable development of the Region indicates. Then a more effective international cooperation towards the interaction of bilateral programs of Brazil with other countries is necessary.

Matthias Frattini, representing the project coordination, commented that Brazil is a priority country for cooperation with Germany, whose tradition dates back to 1969 when Brazil and Germany signed the bilateral agreement on S&T. He informed that on April 12th, 2010, the Brazilian-German Year of Science, Technology and Innovation was launched, as a way of celebrating this traditional cooperation with a number of events already planned in both countries. Finally he emphasized that the approval of the project APORTA confirms the importance given by the EU to the cooperation with Brazil.

3 Presentation session

Patrick Séchet, of IRD, presented the first results of the project APORTA. He informed that a survey was carried out in some embassies in Brasilia with the counsellors responsible for S&T cooperation of some Member States and Associated States of the European Union, considered important by tradition and representative of this bilateral cooperation, such as France, Britain and Germany, Spain and Portugal. Greece was also included as a participant in APORTA. Belgium and Sweden were included for their importance and performance in the EU. This work, as part of the activities set in WP 1.1 (mapping and inventory of national programs) aimed to provide information about the occasional contribution of bilateral cooperation as a source of opportunities for European participation in Brazilian programs. He highlighted that problems with visas, recognition of qualifications and difficulties in implementing innovation projects with European countries were factors that deserved more attention in order to allow the expansion of cooperation with that continent. As a complementary work to the analysis of bilateral cooperation agreements, there will be interviews with staff responsible for such cooperation in some Brazilian agencies for research support, such as CNPq and CAPES. In parallel, interviews with managers of national calls will be carried out.

Paulo Siqueira, representing CNPq, explained the activities already developed for the implementation of the database as part of the set of activities in WP 1.2 (production of information about opportunities). He explained that initially, a form was prepared by CNPq for gathering information about the calls opened to Europeans or with great potential for opening. This form was tested with the calls of Nanotechnology of FAPESP/MCT, INCT do CNPq e PROANTAR, aiming to achieve the three levels of performance of the Brazilian system of R&D (federal, state and corporate). He emphasized that the form includes standardized information to be published on web portal ACCESS4EU. He also emphasized that the form established for the dissemination of data on the website of ACCESS4EU was also tested with the call of Second Generation Biofuels Brazil / EU. He said that the analogy between the two forms should enable the appropriate selection of data to be inserted in the database, as single information, and that the difficulties in filling raised during these tests will contribute to its improvement. Among the difficulties encountered with the test form for the ACCESS4EU database, stand out:

- The need to include the identification number of the call;
- The inclusion of two different thematic areas in the same call;
- Occasional replacement of the detailed description of the call by a well written summary; and
- The lack of objective information in some calls about the available budget

Paulo Siqueira stressed the need of some changes in the forms to make possible the continuity of the survey intended and its publication on the web page of ACCESS4EU. After the gathering of information, the monitoring phase (WP 1.3) will start.

Then, Counsellor Ademar Cruz, of MRE, spoke about the aspects of Brazil/EU cooperation, highlighting that the Ministry has interest in APORTA, because of the purpose of mapping Brazilian calls. National programs of research support are often not utilized well, so APORTA could contribute to the process by promoting international interaction. Cruz emphasized the importance of the National Contact Points (NCPs) for a better interaction with the EU. APORTA works towards the insertion Europeans in Brazilian research projects. Special mention was made of the EULANEST program that launched a call accessible to Brazilian national participation with financial support of CNPq.

Counsellor Cruz also suggested the installation of a point Géant in Brazil, as a necessary support to our telecommunications network. In conclusion, he commented that the contribution should be mobilized to generate innovation, and inserting calls that involve sector supply chains and reverse in process of economy of the knowledge.

Angel Landabaso, as representative of EU Delegation in Brazil, spoke about the context of cooperation with Brazil. Relations with Brazil are geo-strategic to expand the groups and research networks as well as the flow of Europeans to Brazil. Joint programming of research between the EU and Brazil should be promoted through “*Joint Calls*” or “*Coordinated Calls*”. The main points highlighted by Landabaso were

- The issue of intellectual property rights;
- Public-private partnerships and innovation;
- Availability of federal, state and municipal resources, and,
- Reciprocity of access conditions to S&T funding that should be considered.

According to Landabaso, BBice constitutes an important ally to APORTA, enabling a joint performance in the process of surveying opportunities for European participation in the Brazilian programs. The cooperation with EU should be considered strategically.

Landabaso finally emphasized the following points:

- The Brazilian position on the Dialogue ALCUE should be well delineated from the definition of priorities, budget and domestic policy action ;
- Emphasis should be laid on promoting research on networking, integrating efforts and setting goals;
- Installation of a point Géant, as support for telecommunications, including in cooperation with third countries;
- Complementation of existing agreements, whether financial or instrumental ;
- Absence of European coordination in the context of this cooperation ;
- Many bilateral actions could have a community dimension.

Paulo Egler, representative of BBICE spoke about the project in the context of EU and its role in Brazil, stating that the goals are to expand cooperation with the EU, to assist the Europeans in search of national partners and to promote greater coordination with other regional offices (Argentina, Chile and Mexico). Among the ongoing actions one can single out the creation of a web page, which is still reactive; the creation of a database of Brazilian research institutions; the production and diffusion of information, as well as the promotion of the Dialogue ALCUE. Besides, he outlined the main problems of Brazilian-European cooperation, namely:

- More scientific than technological activities;
- Relations developed on a much more personal than institutional basis;
- Absence of a clear policy;
- Existence of a still precarious flow of information;
- Cooperation by initiative of the researcher;
- Results achieved until this moment indicate the need of a greater knowledge about FP7.

P. Egler also singled out the areas of main interest to Brazilian researchers: Energy, Health, Agriculture, Engineering and ICT.

4 Discussion Session

The discussion session, in the afternoon, was opened by Professor Moacyr Martucci, from the Polytechnic School of USP, who presented a brief report of his experience working in projects of cooperation under FP7, highlighting the following points:

- Responsibilities must be shared between the researcher coordinator and the scientific coordinator;
- The national partner must also participate in coordination, assuming responsibilities and participating in collegiate decisions, acting as scientific coordinator of the Brazilian side;
- Brazilian participants are not used to work in partnership, which requires an additional effort of performance, allied with the normal complexity inherent to the process;
- European participants should be informed about the programs and databases available in Brazil, to promote interaction in R&D with EU;
- Promotion of a kind of "*concertation meeting*" among the representatives of several EU projects, in which Brazil participates.

Professor Martucci talked about the ICT biannual meeting, suggesting the participation of an APORTA representative during the event.

After that, he gave the floor to Professor Samir Suaiden, Scientific and Technical Director of FAP-DF, the foundation that supports researchers in the Federal District (Brasilia). FAP is active in all the areas of research with a budget of 60 million Reais, financing about 20 calls involving about 200 researchers. The main projects which are supported by FAP are in the Health area, more specifically in the fight against Dengue; and in the area of Urban Development in which a study about the future of Brasilia is being carried out. Next to funding S&T, FAP also supports capacity building, but activities in the public policies sphere as well (old age and homeless kids). FAP also holds an agreement with the "Fundação Assis Chateaubriant" in order to promote the popularization of science in the Federal District. There were many doubts about the impact of the resources on society and also on consequences of the restriction imposed on the FAP, as the coordinators have to be from the Federal District.

The audience agreed to have the debates interrupted in order to see a presentation about the Lattes Platform, the Brazilian national data base of researchers, given by Geraldo Sorte, the CNPq's General Coordinator for Informatics. He presented the evolution of the Platform from the early days up till now and also its objectives. He stressed the fact that there are about 1.6 million CVs registered, among them 130,000 PhDs, 8,000 institutions and 22,000 research groups in 346 Brazilian Institutions. The daily average of consultations is about 93,000. It was emphasized that the LATTES database is a valuable support tool whenever an assessment by the peers is necessary, as a source for the consultants and also as an instrument for the formulation of national policies. The Platform is very reliable. The Rede Scienti, which encompasses Latin and Central American countries, and some of Africa and Europe, was also mentioned during the presentation.

With the support of CNPq and through technology transfer, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Mexico, Mozambique and Portugal have successfully created their own platforms based on the Brazilian model.

5 Closing Session

During his closing remarks, Professor José Monserrat, representing the Ministry of Science and Technology, stressed that today Brazil has a policy towards universal cooperation, the European Union being a very important partner. Very recently Brazil and the EU have started a bilateral cooperation with mutual commitment. He congratulated CNPq and the representatives of the European Union for the launching of the project and the attainment of the objectives despite the absence of many participants from Europe on account of the Volcano eruption that prevented people from flying to Brazil.

Finally, Director Glaucius Oliva offered total support of CNPq for the APORTA project and congratulated each and everyone for the successful meeting. Dr. Matthias Frattini also congratulated the organizers for the success of the event and for the support of CNPq.

CNPq announced the organization of the second meeting with project managers, expected for the end of September of 2010.

Annex: List of participants

Name	Institution	Phone number and/or email
Maria Carmen Arroio	CNPq/ASCIN	(61) 2108 9429; MArroio@cnpq.br
Sacy Nadaradjane	IRD-Brasilia	(61) 3364 0959; Sacy.Nadaradjane@ird.fr
Izaura M. Yamada	CNPq/ASCIN/Cocmi	(61) 2108 9448; IzauraY@cnpq.br
Paulo César Siqueira	CNPq/ASCIN/Cocmi	(61) 2108 9432; PSiqueira@cnpq.br
Camila Meireles	VALE S.A.	(21) 3814 6357; Camila.Meireles@vale.com
Paulo César G. Egler	IBICT e UnB	(61) 3217 6102; Pegler@ibict.br
Moacyr Martucci Jr	USP	(11) 3091 5626; MMartucci@usp.br
Ademar S. da Cruz Jr	MRE/DCTEC	(61) 3411 8470; Ademar.Cruz@itamaraty.gov.br
Angel Landabaso	UE-DelBra	Angel.Landabaso@ec.europa.eu
Matthias Frattini	DLR IB/BMBF	(49) 2283821434; Matthias.Frattini@dlr.de
Eric Bourland	French Embassy	(61) 3222 3880; Eric.Bourland@diplomatie.gouv.fr
Jean-Loup Guyot	IRD	Jean-Loup.Guyot@ird.fr
Patrick Séchet	IRD-Brasilia	Patrick.Sechet@ird.fr
Samir Suaiden	FAP-DF	(61) 9339 0680; Suaiden@gmail.com
Simone Messias	Project BB.BICE	(61) 3368 6486; Simone.Messias@unb.br
Omar Layunta	MS/SCTIE	(61) 3315 3370; Omar.Layunta@saude.gov.br
Marcos Lins Faustino	MS/AISA	(61) 3315 2826; Marcos.Faustino@saude.gov.br
Glaucius Oliva	CNPq	(61) 2108 9850; dph@cnpq.br
José Oswaldo Siqueira	CNPq	(61) 2108 9381; dpt@cnpq.br
Alexandre P. Silveira	CAPES	(61) 2022 6657; cgci@capes.gov.br
Regina G. de Saboya	ASCIN/CNPq	(61) 2108 9512; RSaboya@cnpq.br
Maria Lucilene Velo	ASCIN/CNPq	(61) 2108 9441; MVelo@cnpq.br
Gabriela Teles Cardoso	IRD-CNPq	(61) 8103 1253; GCardoso@cnpq.br
Fernanda M. Guimarães	CNPq/ASCIN	(61) 9946 0907; FMarina@cnpq.br