



PRELIMINARY SYNTHESIS REPORT ON CROSS-CUTTING TOPICS

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SUMMARY

A synthesis report on cross-cutting topics is the main deliverable of WP 2. This document presents a tentative structure of the final report, describes objectives and methodology of the analysis, outlines the four cross-cutting topics and lists the guiding questions to be addressed. WP 2 “Cross-cutting pathways” will contribute to a better and more differentiated understanding of EU-CELAC relations. Its two main objectives are: a) to identify through the lens of key cross-cutting topics significant similarities and differences between EU and LAC in the cultural, scientific and social dimension of their relations; b) to identify where and in which sense one region could learn from the other. In this way, an input to the vision building process of Work Package 6 will be provided. In addition, lessons learned on trans-sectorial exchange and analysis will be summarized.

INTRODUCTION

The EU and its Member States have had a significant presence in Latin America and the Caribbean since the early 1990s when democracy had returned in many countries of the region. A solid partnership developed, based on the mutual appraisal of trans-Atlantic partners that recognize their close historical, cultural and economic ties. With the institutionalisation of the EU-LAC relations in 1999 through the first bi-regional Summit of Heads of States and Government, held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), the EU and LAC culminated a decade of rapprochement. In the course of the 1990s, the European Commission also defined an EU-LAC Strategic Partnership based on an interregional approach with bilateral treatment of countries not fully inserted into regional schemes.

During the last decade the context of EU-LAC relations has changed considerably. A more fragmented Latin American and Caribbean bi-regional political space evolved with diverse, often divergent interests, not only among groups of states but also between individual states. Two important processes must be highlighted. First, the stagnation in the older regional integration schemes in Latin America and the Caribbean (based primarily on commercial issues) which went along with the rise of less institutionalised schemes such as UNASUR (Union of South American Nations, created in 2008) and CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, created in 2011) that include a much wider range of topics for regional cooperation. Second, a stronger orientation of Latin America and the Caribbean towards Asia, closely related to the growing economic role of dynamic Asian countries such as China, Korea and India in the region. Indicators of this new geopolitical focus include the Pacific Alliance (created in 2011) and the negotiation of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP; signed in 2016).

In the same time period, the EU has experienced a profound internal crisis and a greater diversification of Member States' interests through its successive expansion. In addition, stronger pressure for action from its neighbour regions and states emerged, thereby strengthening the EU's foreign policy towards Eastern Europe, Middle East and the Mediterranean.

Although relations between the EU and LAC are not burdened by major conflicts, internal developments on both sides of the Atlantic and global transformations have caused a certain bi-regional alienation. The last Summits of Heads of States and Government have shown a gradual fatigue, with consultation mechanisms lacking impacts both politically and on societies in general.

If Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean want to shape global developments together, they need to share a common vision. However, such a common vision cannot be taken for granted, but must be designed and produced jointly. Therefore, an analysis of interests, goals, perspectives and challenges between EU and CELAC is urgently needed. This assessment has triggered the development of the EULAC Focus project, in which 19 institutional partners— nine based in the European Union and ten from Latin America and the Caribbean— will work closely together in order to make a contribution to such a bi-regional vision-building process.

The main objective of the EULAC Focus project is that of “giving focus” to EU–CELAC relations. The project pays special attention to the social, scientific and cultural dimensions, proposing a new strategic and more targeted framework for bi-regional relations. For the analysis of these dimensions, three, thematic Work-Packages (WPs) have been established in the project: WP 3 on the

cultural dimension, WP 4 on the scientific dimension, and WP 5 on the social dimension. They not only aim at determining synergies and fostering cross-fertilization in EU CELAC bi-regional relations, but also at identifying asymmetries and bottlenecks. As they share common patterns and address similar challenges, the study of the social, scientific, and cultural dimensions of EU-CELAC bi-regional relations overlaps with trans-sectorial research pathways. Therefore, WP 3, WP 4, and WP 5 are complemented by two horizontal Work Packages: WP 6 and WP 2.

While the overall objective of WP 6 is to outline a vision of bi-regional relations between EU and LAC, WP 2 will analyse key cross-cutting topics. It will foster the interdisciplinary treatment of trans-sectorial pathways, feeding into the analysis of the cultural, scientific and social dimensions of EU – LAC bi-regional relations and synthesizing the outcomes regarding the cross-cutting topics provided by the thematic pillars WP 3, 4, and 5. Thus, it will promote knowledge exchange, close interconnections and feedback loops between WP 3, 4, and 5 in order to mutually reinforce those thematic Work Packages and provide a targeted input to the vision-building process of WP 6.

Results from the analysis of the cross-cutting topics of the cultural, scientific and social dimensions of the bi-regional relation will be taken into account in the scenario building process, which addresses key factors, trends and uncertainties that will most probably shape and determine the future of EU-CELAC relations.

1 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

WP 2 “Cross-cutting pathways” will contribute to a better and more differentiated understanding of EU-CELAC relations. Its two main objectives are:

- a) To identify through the lens of key cross-cutting topics significant similarities and differences between EU and LAC in the cultural, scientific and social dimension of their relations;
- b) To identify where and in which sense one region could learn from the other.

In this way, an input to the vision building process of Work Package 6 will be provided. In addition, lessons learned on trans-sectorial exchange and analysis will be summarized.

A synthesis report on the cross-cutting pathways is the main deliverable of WP 2. The final version is planned for completion by February, 2019 (see D 2.4). Preliminary and updated versions of the synthesis report (see D 2.1, D2.5) will be drafted, circulated and discussed between project members and external experts of the Trans-Sectorial Board.

This preliminary synthesis report presents a tentative structure of the report, describes objectives and methodology of the analysis, outlines the four cross-cutting topics and lists the guiding questions to be addressed.

The **time period considered** in the synthesis report will extend from 1999 until 2018. It starts with the first bi-regional summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1999 and finishes at the end of 2018 when the study will be completed and the final version of the report elaborated. This means that the analysis of the cross-cutting topics will encompass ca. twenty years.

In addition to its temporal scope, the research design of the synthesis report also has a clearly defined **spatial frame**. The analysis of the cross-cutting topics will largely refer to the bi-regional level, that is to relationships institutionalised and implemented in a specific political and legal setting between the EU and CELAC (and their precursors in LAC).

The **principal sources** of the analysis are:

- a) Official documents of EU CELAC and antecedent consultation and cooperation mechanisms as the EU - Rio Group meetings or the San José Dialogue between the EU and Central America. This will include documents and reports of the EU LAC summits (1999, Rio de Janeiro, 2002 Madrid, 2004 Guadalajara, 2006 Vienna, 2008 Lima, 2010 Madrid) and the EU CELAC summits (2013 Santiago de Chile, 2015 Brussels, 2017 Santo Domingo) as well as of the regular senior officials’ meetings, specific thematic dialogues and initiatives. Efforts will be undertaken to participate as an observer in the EU CELAC summit scheduled for 2017 in Santo Domingo. In addition, ongoing and finished projects funded by the EC of relevance for the cross-cutting issues may be included.
- b) Scientific literature (studies, books, journal articles, etc.).
- c) Input from WP 3, WP 4 and WP 5 regarding the cross-cutting topics.

The analysis will rely on the following **main instruments**:

- a) Research and inquiries of the WP 2 Team. The WP 2 Team consists of Barbara Göbel (Work-Package Leader, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, Berlin), Moacyr Martucci (Work Package Co-Leader, Universidade de Sao Paulo), Peter Birle (Researcher, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, Berlin), and Miriam Boyer (Researcher, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, Berlin).
- b) Workshops of the project in Europe and Latin America. Workshop 1: Madrid, April 4-5 2016; Workshop 2: Berlin, 29-31 August 2016; Workshop 3: Quito, Month 12 (February 2017 tbc); Workshop 4: Buenos Aires, Month 21 (November 2017 tbc); Workshop 5: Vienna, Month 30 (August 2018 tbc).
- c) Meetings of the Trans-Sectorial Board. The Trans-Sectorial Board consists of up to 12 members: the Coordinator, the Leader and Co Leader of WP 2, the Leaders of WP 3, WP 4, WP 5, WP 6; one representative from the EU LAC Foundation as an external expert, and up to four further external experts. Meetings of the Trans-Sectorial Board will be held back to back with the project Workshops. (For more details see: see Work Plan of the Trans-Sectorial Board, WP02-DI-02).
- d) Meetings and Workshops with WP 3, WP 4, WP 5, WP 6 Leaders and Co-Leaders.
- e) Teleconferences with WP 3, WP 4, WP 5, WP 6 Leaders and Co-Leaders.
- f) Teleconferences with external experts of the Trans-Sectorial Board.

So far, two main **methodological challenges** have been identified. One challenge that has to be addressed in the analysis of the cross-cutting issues is the heterogeneity of research designs in the thematic work packages. WP 3, WP 4, and WP 5 differ from each other considerably with regard to their thematic foci, spatial frame and temporal scope (e.g., some focus on a comparative analysis of issues in both regions, others on relations; some are strictly bi-regional, others take bilateral EU relations with specific LAC countries into account). This heterogeneity makes direct comparison a difficult task. Another challenge for the analysis of cross-cutting issues is that the three thematic dimensions – social, scientific, cultural relations - do not have the same significance for the bi-regional relations. While science has been taken into account from the outset in EU LAC relations and has gained an increasingly important role over time, this is not the case for the social dimension or the cultural dimension. Particularly, the cultural dimension has received far less attention than the scientific dimension in bi-regional relations. We must find strategies to deal with both challenges in our analysis.

2 FOCI OF THE ANALYSIS: CROSS-CUTTING TOPICS

The synthesis report will analyse the following cross-cutting topics:

- Mobility
- Inequality
- Diversity
- Sustainability

Four criteria guided the selection of these cross-cutting topics:

- a) They are paradigmatic key concepts encapsulating a broader spectrum of themes and problems.
- b) They address significant aspects of the social, the scientific and the cultural dimensions of EU LAC relations; this means that they are pertinent to all three dimensions of bi-regional relations considered in the project.
- c) They are of strategic relevance for the EU LAC bi-regional agenda and play also an important role within the UN framework.
- d) There is a need for a systematic and more differentiated analysis of these cross-cutting issues with regard to the social, scientific and cultural dimensions of EU LAC relations and taken altogether, in order to comprehend their interlinkages better. In this sense the analysis of the selected cross-cutting issues makes a contribution to overcome blind spots in our understanding of EU LAC relations.

The four cross-cutting topics will not only be analysed individually for the three dimensions. In addition, we will also explore the overlaps and interconnections between mobility, inequality, diversity and sustainability.

2.1 MOBILITY

In the project we understand mobility as the spatial movement of people and knowledge between Europe and Latin America/the Caribbean. Migration – immigration, emigration, or re-migration of individuals and social groups - is an important aspect of bi-regional mobility. However, beyond people also knowledge, ideas, values, experiences circulate across the Atlantic. The digital transformation produces, for example, new patterns of mobility of knowledge beyond institutional and national borders.

In the analysis of mobility we will focus on the following key questions:

- How is mobility addressed in the social, scientific and cultural dimensions of bi-regional relations? How has this changed in the time period considered?
- What are the main achievements, what are the main challenges regarding mobility in the social, scientific and cultural dimensions of bi-regional relations?
- Are the existing funding instruments and formats adequate to foster social, scientific and cultural mobility between the EU and CELAC? Which additional instruments and formats would be necessary to enhance mobility?

- To what extent and how does mobility have an impact on the cultural, scientific, and social dimensions of bi-regional relations?

2.2 INEQUALITY

We define inequality as the distance between the positions of individuals or social groups in the hierarchy of access to socially-relevant and economically important goods (income, wealth, etc.) and power resources (rights, political participation, political position, etc.). In the project the multidimensionality of inequalities will be taken into account. Going beyond the traditional emphasis on class differences and unequal distribution of income, we will also look at inequalities of gender, class, ethnicity and the interlinkages between these social categories. Furthermore, the analysis of inequality will consider issues of exclusion and inclusion as well as more general social cohesion.

In the analysis of inequality we will focus on the following key questions:

- How is inequality addressed in the social, scientific and cultural dimensions of bi-regional relations? How has this changed in the time period considered?
- What are main achievements, what are main challenges regarding inequality in the social, scientific and cultural dimensions of bi-regional relations? What are commonalities and differences concerning strategies to address social inequalities and enhance social inclusion? What could both regions learn from each other?
- To what extent and how does inequality have an impact on the cultural, scientific, and social dimensions of bi-regional relations?
- What specific roles do cultural, scientific and social relations between EU and LAC play in fostering social inclusion and reducing social inequalities within and between the two regions?

2.3 DIVERSITY

Diversity has two mutually interdependent dimensions: biological diversity and cultural diversity. In the present project we will focus more on cultural diversity. The concept does not only encompass diversity of cultural norms, values and practices (multiculturalism), but also differences of gender, age, and ethnicity and the interconnections between these social categories.

In the analysis of diversity we will focus on the following key questions:

- How is diversity addressed in the social, scientific and cultural dimensions of bi-regional relations? How has this changed in the time period considered?
- What are main achievements, what are main challenges regarding diversity in the social, scientific and cultural dimensions of bi-regional relations? What could both regions learn from each other?
- To what extent and how does diversity have an impact on the cultural, scientific, and social dimensions of bi-regional relations?

2.4 SUSTAINABILITY

At the core of the concept of sustainability are the interconnections between economic growth, environmental health and social wellbeing. In order to achieve a sustainable development, economic growth has to be environmentally viable, socially bearable and economically equitable.

Unsustainable development enhances vulnerabilities of social groups and deepens inequalities. The concept of sustainability addresses transformation processes (dynamics of development), highlighting the interdependencies between different spatial scales (local, national, regional and global spaces) and temporal frames. Development is sustainable if it meets the needs of the present, in the ways described above, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Questions of trans-regional inequalities and inter-generational justice are therefore closely linked to the sustainability concept.

In the analysis of sustainability we will focus on the following key questions:

- How is sustainability being addressed in the social, scientific and cultural dimensions of bi-regional relations? How has this changed in the time period considered?
- What are main achievements, what are main challenges regarding sustainability in the social, scientific and cultural dimensions of bi-regional relations?
- To what extent and how does sustainability have an impact on the cultural, scientific, and social dimensions of bi-regional relations?

3 CONCLUSIONS

4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

Appendix A APPENDIX TITLE