

BRAZILIAN WORKSHOP EULAC FOCUS Project

“Brazil in the context of EU-CELAC relations”

23 November 2017, IRI-USP Institute of International Relations of the University of São Paulo ,
São Paulo, Brazil

The EULAC FOCUS Project workshop: “Brazil in the context of EU-CELAC relations” main goals were:

- Present and disseminate to the Brazilian academic community the EULAC FOCUS Project and its current results
- Analyse Brazil’s position in terms of institutionalised relationship in the political and legal context between EU and CELAC (and its LAC precursors).
- Present the Brazilian vision and participation in the cultural, scientific, social relations and in the economic partnership developed between EU and LAC in the last decades.
- Present researches developed inside the EU-LAC cooperation, with Brazilian participation, and its results.
- Present the cooperation between the two regions in Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, with Brazilian participation.

Welcome

The workshop was opened by Prof. Vinícius Guilherme Rodrigues Vieira, from IRI-USP Institute of International Relations of the University of São Paulo who emphasized the importance of an event discussing EU-CELAC relations as a great opportunity to explore not only politics but also prospects on economy and between institutions.

Ms.Barbara Göbel from Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI) showed the importance for knowledge and research discussion. She explained that the difficult in positioning CELAC in Germany is not lack of interest but lack of information from the decision makers’ point of view.

Prof.Ari Plonsky from IEA-USP Institute of Advanced Studies, University of São Paulo talked about two types of remarks on STI international dimension exploring CELAC: opportunity to build many institution connections, some new as Mexico and Costa Rica, and present whole CELAC’s (most specifically Brazil) challenging transition. He points that looking at the future should help understanding this process.

The EULAC FOCUS Project- Ms.Barbara Göbel, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

Ms.Barbara Göbel presented the project to the audience showing the interesting experiences the project is bringing on research. Even though there is a lot of bureaucracy to be dealt with, the project brings a lot of learning space.

Proceeding to the objectives, Barbara showed the importance of the project and the challenging issues in the EU-CELAC relations, such as symmetry on established mechanisms and fragmentations of political spaces and institutions. In this sense, the project aims to contribute giving focus to the dynamic of the relations. She also explained the importance of the consortium built in the project, since most of the partners never worked together.

The challenge of negotiating how to work has some aspects: the meetings are most web conferences, while face to face ones build trust; the project goes beyond classical relation

between universities, bridging universities with institutions such as Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Innovación Productiva (MINCYT) from Argentina, the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and Zentrum für Soziale Innovation (ZSI) from Austria, bringing networks of universities which creates a poli-logic experience.

Other challenges faced in the project are the pressure to deliver results, the asymmetry between the partners - which affects countries like Brazil and Mexico that cannot receive funds. Also, the main language of the project is English.

She pointed out the importance of countries in Latin America as Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and Chile not only to work together but also to make a less asymmetric relationship.

The projects involving EU-CELAC usually analyse the Science Policies between the regions through the lens of economy. EULAC FOCUS gives a different point of view, analysing not specifically economics and political but inside three dimensions: scientific, cultural (which is very fragmented and less developed) and social (as an example, migration). Afterwards, the four cross-cutting topics were presented, showing the role of Work Package 2 and Work Package 6 on these topics.

She presented how the project works, giving examples as workshops, meetings, repository of documents and policy papers.

The main lesson learned was that less is more, so the project mainly focus on the four defined cross-cutting topics in the EU-CELAC relations: mobility, diversity, inequality and sustainability.

Keynote speaker: “Central Europe and Latin America: two very similar regions that should complement more”- Prof. Paulo Roberto Feldmann, FEA USP (Faculty of Economics and Administration of the University of São Paulo) and Fudan Latin America University Consortium

Prof. Paulo Feldmann started explaining that the main intention of his speech was to show that Latin America should give more focus to Central Europe (CEE), showing the similarities and opportunities between CELAC and CEE.

He presented the four most important countries of CEE: Poland, Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia; highlighted that they have homogenous characteristics, remaining very integrated even after the end of the URSS and the *Cold War*; and made an overview of the CELAC countries.

Explaining why the relations are so weak between these regions, he listed the lack of mutual understanding (the language barrier as an example), the large geographical distance and the lack of infrastructure.

Another similarity is that the regions left dictatorships almost at the same period; consequently, there is still a lack of democratic tradition compared to the Western Europe. Other problems in common presented are the difficult transition to democracy, the economy undeveloped, foreign debt issues and the complex privatization problem.

Both regions had a good period in terms of growth during especially 2000-2008, when CEE entered EU and Latin America presented a commodities boom.

Presenting the historical relations, he described the first migrations, the diplomatic representations established and the problems faced after World War II, when the regions positioned in different sides. He also pointed out that Brazil has a huge community from Poland

and Hungary. In politics, there is also a big influence, since ex-president Juscelino Kubitschek has Czech and Dilma Rousseff has Bulgarian ascendancy.

In the economic relations, he showed that it started during the interwar. Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary exported metal to Brazil, Mexico and Argentina and Latin America exported raw materials to CEE. During the Cold War, the economic relation faced some problems with Cuba's approximation to CEE. With the collapse of communism, many aspects changed, especially the cultural influence. Latin America started to reflect on what happened and reevaluate democratic ideals, what approximated the regions again.

He showed an overview on the economics of both regions nowadays with data from 2016. CEE has bigger GDP per capita, being this GDP (PPP) equivalent to Brazilian GDP. On the other side, the total exportations and importations of CEE are less than Latin America's. Comparing the five most important countries in each region, he showed that they have almost the same economic participation in their respective area; therefore, he thinks it is good for Latin America to focus in these five countries. He also showed the similarities between social indexes, explaining that Western Europe has higher numbers but the same does not happen to CEE: the income per capita is still different but not as much as Western Europe – Chile has greater numbers than Romania; the same happens to the human development index- Chile is ahead of Romania and Slovakia. Regarding to Western Europe market, there is an important fact: Latin America exports agricultural products that do not compete with CEE, the only exception is wheat, especially in Poland. The trade in recent years is: LAC to CEE- raw material, agricultural, mining with little value added; CEE to LAC- manufactured goods with high value added. The only exceptions in LAC-CEE trade are Mexico that exports car parts and electrical components and Brazil that exports aircrafts (EMBRAER- is a Brazilian multinational conglomerate manufacturer of commercial, executive, agricultural and military aircraft, aerospace parts, services and support in the area).

According to him, the recent changes are CEE's great access to EU, the big opportunity of EU-CELAC to contribute reducing the mutual ignorance between CEE-LA and the gradual establishment of the EU-LAC free trade zone, which in his opinion can improve the relation and it needs a focus in exploring CEE because of the proximity presented: similar income, complementarity in economy (LAC needs machines, CEE needs commodities), markets to be explored and not so much competition.

Prof. Feldmann explained that to strengthen relations there is a big and complex challenge to solve and it should be done with collaboration of governments, politicians in Latin America need to agree that CEE is a better opportunity than Western Europe and also focus the relations with CEE in the academic field; CEE has a great interest in Latin America but Latin America does not show interest. For this, he thinks is important to have public policy for CEE to become a target for Latin America. For him, one of the reasons for the distance between the regions was the Cold War, when they were forbidden to have relations. He also points that tourism is weak, and that there is a need for both regions to sit together and build a common policy in terms of university approximation, tourism, etc.

When asked about the potential limitation on academics relations due to the nationalism in some CEE countries, Prof. Feldmann said that the problem is in Hungary and Poland, which have populist governments. In his opinion, these countries will not avoid Latin America, since they are afraid of muslims and migrants, Latin America has a good relation with CEE, therefore it will not be a problem.

"Potentials and challenges of EU-CELAC relation on R&I"- Dr.Paulo Siqueira,CNPq (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development)

The presentation had a focus on the scientific dimension.

Dr.Paulo Siqueira presented the supporting tools for EU-CELAC relations and their importance: SOM to discuss priorities about mechanisms, NCPs- since cooperation with EU is complex, bureaucracy is not easy, the NCPs approximate partners, Link Offices- R&D and capacity building, Service Facilities Programs and EURAXESS.

He presented two EU-CELAC projects supporting international cooperation with Brazilian participation: ALCUE-NET and ERANET-LAC.

He showed the achievements of the EU-CELAC cooperation: progress in establishing common Research Area pillars; the implementation of joint calls ERANET; the establishment of a network for policy dialogue and funding agency interaction, the creation of Working Groups on R&I like infrastructure and the creation of interest groups.

For difficulties and vulnerabilities he pointed out the asymmetry of CELAC partners in economic development and research, for example; the lack of planning and research policy; the limitation of resources for international cooperation; the need of research infrastructures in some CELAC countries; the need to reinforce capacity building; the obligation of counterpart for Brazil, Mexico and Barbados under H2020 Actions, limiting their efforts to cooperate with EU.

In the conclusion, he presented the achievements of the projects showing the importance of this cooperation, stimulating new efforts. The end of these projects brings reflections about this cooperation, needing additional efforts to be established.

Round Table-Ms. Barbara Göbel, Prof.Paulo Feldmann, Dr.Paulo Siqueira

Dr.Paulo Siqueira explained the way CNPq works to support research in Brazil and its interactions with Brazilian Ministries and Latin American countries, citing that there is multilateral cooperation; CNPq has agreements with Latin America and tries to use it to launch calls. He pointed out that multilateral collaboration needs more articulation, information and infrastructure. He also explained how the focus in science and technology in other Latin America countries is. Siqueira talked about capacity building, the idea of offering graduate scholarships to developing countries in Latin America and Africa with cultural agreement. He sees a need to know better how Latin America can mitigate the asymmetry. He thinks CNPq can interact with the project EULAC FOCUS.

Barbara sees Brazil as key for mobility attraction and emphasized the importance of internationalization. Looking at Latin America, she sees that mechanisms are quite weak, co-financing is key to negotiate, so it needs strategic alliances. She sees no articulation and thinks that the stronger countries could negotiate better.

Prof. Feldmann said that Latin America is not integrated within members. He thinks the problem of few level integration within Latin America is political and cultural, especially cultural; the preference is for US, Western Europe and Japan, but never Latin America. In his opinion, for the sake of success the universities need to be involved.

According to Dr. Paulo Siqueira, Argentina involved researchers on how to present; Colombia and Peru are doing a very good work, better organized. He thinks Brazil has good connections but not in a level they would like.

Barbara sees the summits as good mechanisms to input the process in academic communities. She thinks it is important to admit the risk of failure on collaboration and sees EU reducing investments with non-European countries and increasing investments in China. She thinks there is a need to collaborate with the UK, strategic after the BREXIT; she also sees a need to institutionalize collaboration.

Prof. Paulo Feldmann thinks that China is very aggressive in terms of Latin America academia. He explained that China is the biggest partner in trading with Brazil and it is trying to be near the universities offering scholarships. He sees the PhDs in China as an interesting model: they choose students doing PhD and pay scholarship to go to China for six months to conclude the PhD. China does not offer dual degree yet but it is considered for the future. He sees China very interested in Latin America, more aggressive than the Europeans. He thinks it is important for Latin America a new very strong force, not only US. He sees Europe behind US and China but thinks Europe is more important in terms of trade.

Barbara sees China capturing brains. EU perspective is different; China is the most important trade partner to Germany, for example. China send students through mobility programs. She sees no triangulation, thinks that Latin America universities are stronger and could take advantage.

Paulo Siqueira thinks the triangulation is interesting but not concrete yet. Says that CNPq has agreement with Academy of Science of China and can put scholarships and researchers. He thinks the collaboration with China is a tradition but needs to develop better.

Prof. Paulo Feldmann sees EU not so close to Brazil as US and China.

The workshop finished with reflections on how EU and CELAC can improve collaboration and the participants pointed out that the discussions presented in the event were very important to disseminate crucial knowledge to widen the collaboration range.