Research and Innovation support to sustainable development

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Outline of the presentation

- *A short description of the pilot*
- *What we knew in advance about the challenges*
  - *the Mission-Orientation and*
  - *the Regional Level*
- *Initial Findings (after the Scoping Workshop and three country visits)*
- *Lessons learned for the pilot (as yet)*
- *Lessons learned for the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative On R&I (as yet)*

The pilot **support mission-oriented research in the areas of environment and biodiversity**

1. Expression of interest by six countries (Panama – Costa Rica – Dominican Republic –Guatemala – Nicaragua – San Salvador)
2. Determining the scope of the policy advice (a scoping workshop was organised to achieve maximum input, knowledge and synergies)
3. Implementation Steps:
   - State of the art analysis;
   - Fact finding missions and a focus workshop leading to a 'policy approach' (e.g. sustainable exploitation and management of forest resources; conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems; production of clean, safe water or otherwise): proposals and criteria
   - Benchmarking; learning experience through an Expert Panel meeting;
   - Action Plan;
     - improvement of the design of institutional and policy arrangements by providing expertise and guidance from experts
   - Adoption of the Action Plan ….and then implementation

Timetable (indicative for designing PAS)

Task	Deadline
WP1	
Identifying additional experts	On going
WP2	
Prepare final template for mapping existing relevant initiatives in country	31th August
A list of interviews and meetings, together with agenda and schedule	15th September
Draft background report (based on state-of-the-art analysis) to inform fact-finding mission	21th September
Fact-finding mission	September - October
Focus meeting to discuss fact-finding mission and have a joint reflection and exchange on the main findings from the state-of-the-art analysis considering the preparation of the assessment report and next steps of the assignment.	Early November
Assessment report (include selection of mission area).	30th October
WP3	
Selection of potential comparator initiatives to be shared with representatives from the six beneficiary countries	30th October
Development of common template	30th October
Draft version of benchmark (section for the final report)	17th November
WP4	
Peer-review panels	NA
Peer-review panels report	1st December
WP5	
Final report	15th January
WP6	
Final conference	NA

What we knew in advance about the challenges of the particular EoI

Ambitions and Challenges going together

1. ***Regional projects are more challenging than national*** ones with one country and one agency asking for support.
2. ***Mission-oriented research is more challenging than simple*** research (e.g. cooperative research agenda without worrying about exploitation and long term rewards), or consulting - service provision (e.g. set up basic R&D and/or Innovation indicators monitoring)

BUT ALSO

The more the challenges the higher the risks and rewards!

The mission orientation (the basics)

Mission orientation is an old concept with new emphasis (*and there are good reasons for that*)

- The oldest reputable Mission: JFK's goal of *sending an American safely to the Moon* before the end of the decade
- Current European suggested moonshot projects (address global challenges):
  - Plan to include 10 new moonshots in FP9 (e.g. A cure for dementia, Reducing obesity, Fitting oceans with high-speed internet)
  - Lamy report: achieving a plastic litter-free Europe by 2030; understanding the brain by 2030; producing steel with zero carbon in Europe by 2030; and ensuring the survival of three out of four cancer patients by 2034

The mission orientation (theory and practice)

The theory behind mission orientation

- The market is not a perfect allocation mechanism because actors can be myopic and risk averse
- The State can influence the direction of change by actively creating markets (through missions) that the private sector does not want/dare to address (yet?)
- For this to work best the State needs to be willing to adopt risky portfolios, experiment and learn plus design public private partnerships with equitable risk-reward packages.

Turning theory into practice:

- Sharing a vision; transparency and engagement (Sense of purpose; Involve a broader audience than scientists and professionals)
- Identifying the actors to create a market
- Ensure time horizon (continuity) and governance (coordination, identification of measurable goals)
- Clarify ex ante the expected risk – reward
- Be prepared to lose (I never lose: I either win or I learn)
- Maintaining political commitment to tackling extraordinary problems

The regional dimension

Regional (or multi-country) projects offer scale and scope in capabilities and markets, but they are:

- more complex (more levels of governance)
- more diverse (specificities hamper scale)
- more vulnerable (more changes in a mission's lifespan)

Initial Findings (three countries as yet)

- There are many themes of common interest and common needs in the areas of environment and biodiversity; the difficulty is to select the most appropriate
- Areas of interest are described at a different level of detail and ambition in the three countries visited (e.g. pineapple cultivation techniques; pineapple residual treatment to avoid environmental damage; use of pineapple residuals for value added products/compounds)
- There are many international and bilateral programmes (EU; IDB; various UN organisations; US Aid; GIZ; Japan; Korea; Taiwan, Smithsonian just to name a few) in different areas, mostly uncoordinated nationally and (even more) regionally
- There is lack of continuity (hence most of them do not respond to the criteria of mission-oriented research)

Initial Findings (some ideas)

- Adaptation-based mitigation
- Water resources
- Coffee plantations
- Disease-free forests
- Shrimp technology
- Recuperation of phytogenetic resources and conservation in an enhanced National/Regional Seed Databank collecting and cataloguing those seeds.
- Jaguar monitoring information
- Mangrove area; conserve the area; manage for local community
- Make Orchids an important export product
- Data monitoring and control
- Do more for not-ground water, need for more irrigation in the future
- Understand the Impact of chemicals to agriculture

Lessons learned from and for the pilot

Capabilities and common areas exist. The challenge for the project is to ensure

- Initial Agreement on the selected area
- Formulate the mission
- A Good Action Plan, which can pave the way for
  - Multi-actor involvement (Government – Research – Business – Society), sharing a vision of rewards for all
  - Coordination (National and Regional level)
  - Continuity – Follow Up

Lessons learned for the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative On R&I

- There are many projects supporting R&D in CELAC but they are still far too few compared to the needs
- Needs range from very specific niches (help identify the right equipment for a lab, or algorithms for identified needs such as feed-in tariffs) to very broad, market creating challenges (water for all; make CELAC coffee a global winner)
- If applications lack specificity the selection criteria are a crucial factor of success
- Regional, mission-oriented endeavors are high risk – high reward projects

Thank you

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