

PACE-NET Plus bi-regional Platform

*Moving towards a high-level policy dialogue in Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I)
Pathways to Innovation in the Pacific Region*

30 June-1 July 2016

Tanoa Plaza Hotel, Nandi, Fiji

General objective

With this bi-regional dialogue platform, PACE-Net Plus will present a strategy to support the official recognition of the fundamental importance of ST&I in the sustainable development of Pacific Island Countries; PACE-Net Plus will also propose concrete joint activities to strengthen the STI cooperation between EU and the Pacific Region, thus contributing to policy dialogue between the two regions.

The main outcomes of the project activities will be delivered to the policy makers in the Pacific (State of the art of STI in the Pacific; thematic Think Tanks relating to Horizon 2020 societal challenges¹; surveys on Innovation and pathways to innovation in the Pacific; and results of the seed funding initiatives on STI). The participants will also discuss the policy recommendations that have been elaborated in the framework of the project, to promote the bi-regional cooperation in STI between Europe and the Pacific.

Background

PACE-Net Plus is the second project funded by the European Commission to further support the institutional bi-regional policy dialogue in Science and Technology between the Pacific Region and the European Union; strengthen the bi-regional cooperation in STI, notably through Horizon 2020 (the European Union's framework programme dedicated to research and innovation). Launched in September 2013, the project brings together 16 members, from the Pacific region and the EU².

The opportunities for European and Pacific researchers to collaborate are many and diverse. During the last two years, PACE-Net Plus has organised 8 Think-Tanks, which sought to update and identify research priorities, innovation areas, and to develop preliminary ideas for joint initiatives and activities for EU-Pacific ST&I cooperation. To date for example, PACE-Net Plus, strongly advocates for a future project dedicated to strengthening the Observation systems of Climate change and its Impacts in the Pacific, serving also the global approach of a changing climate.

PACE-Net Plus supports the EU-Pacific policy dialogue in ST&I, including dialogue on innovation issues. Indeed, the world economy continuously poses new challenges to innovation in developing and emerging countries: the rise of information and communication technologies, the development of global value chains, and the increased importance of some countries in the global innovation system. Today a key challenge for innovation policy in developing and emerging countries is to exploit these new opportunities and at the same time to support innovation, addressing major social challenges and generate inclusive growth. This is why the project promotes the idea of innovation as an essential

¹ On: (i) Non communicable diseases and lifestyle options for improved nutrition and well-being; (ii) Convergence of science and traditional knowledge in aqua- and agriculture for sustainable, healthy living in the 21st century; (iii) Enhancing community resilience: managing environment, water and wastes under a changing climate; (iv) Infectious diseases in the Pacific; (v) Coastal ecosystem disturbances, fish and shellfish poisoning and their socio-economic implications; (vi) Reconciling mining and the sustainable development in the Pacific countries; (vii) Strengthening observation systems of the impacts of climate change in the Pacific for a sustainable environment and a better management of terrestrial and maritime resources; (viii) Innovation in the field of Food Security, Sustainable agriculture, Marine and Maritime research and Bio-economy.

² More information on PACE-Net Plus: <http://pacenet.eu/>

platform for tackling global challenges responds to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and its Innovation Union Flagship initiative.

In addition, the project encourages the coordination between ST&I programmes and policies from the EU and its Member States targeting the Pacific, by promoting the implementation of joint actions, such as a future large research call, based on a significant seed-funding scheme designed to ease the access of the PICTs (Pacific Island Countries and Territories) to Horizon 2020.

Finally, as strengthening the bi-regional dialogue in ST&I is a core component of PACE-Net Plus and a key step towards achieving increased EU-Pacific collaboration to address the societal challenges, the project will during this platform strongly advocate pathways for a Pacific regional strategy on ST&I, as well for the building of the relevant organisation to make this dialogue between the EU and Pacific Region sustainable.

Platform preliminary agenda

Day 1: Project outcomes

- Official opening
- Summary of project outcomes: Research directory, Bibliometric analysis, Thematic Think-Tanks...)
- Seed-Funding (scheme and presentation of selected initiatives)
- Cocktail diner

Day 2: Regional and bi-regional dialogue

- Outcomes of innovation activities (regional surveys, group consultations, case-studies etc.) and discussion on pathways to innovation
- Policy dialogue: beyond PACE-Net Plus (STI task force / regional & bi-regional dialogue + Seed-funding scheme + Observatory systems of Climate Change)
- Film on PACE-Net Plus
- Closing diner

Target audience (approx. 100 delegates from Pacific/European countries)

- ❖ EU and EC representatives
- ❖ Policy makers and senior officials from governments from the Pacific
- ❖ Senior officials from regional organisations including the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
- ❖ Senior scientists and academics (Pacific Island Universities Research Network-PIURN, Regional University Network-RUN etc. representatives)
- ❖ Non-governmental organisations
- ❖ Representatives of the public and private sectors
- ❖ Representatives of funding organisations

More information on this platform soon on: <http://plus.pacenet.eu/events/pacenetplus-fiji-2016>

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