



EU-CELAC Working Group on Research Infrastructures

Programme for an RI study visit in EU and CELAC in 2026

Host institution	SmartC-BIOREN (Service Management Analytical Research and Training Center) BIOREN-UFRO, Universidad de La Frontera (UFRO) https://bioren.ufro.cl/
Host representative	Maria de la Luz Mora – Director, BIOREN-UFRO Email: Mariluz.mora@ufroterera.cl Pablo Demanet Concha – Executive Director, SmartC-BIOREN Email: Pablo.demanet@ufroterera.cl Phone: +56 9 9998 1800
City, country	Temuco, Chile
Potential date for the study visit	19-23 October 2026
Duration	5 days
Target group	RI managers and high-level technical staff; Administrative staff involved in service management, access procedures, quality and technology transfer (as relevant).
Objectives of the study visit	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen EU–CELAC cooperation between research infrastructures through direct exchanges and skills development. • Present the SmartC-BIOREN service-management model for analytical services, training and user support (governance, workflows, KPIs, and continuous improvement). • Share best practices on access models and user engagement (internal/external users, prioritisation, service catalogue, and scheduling). • Discuss sustainable business models and cost-recovery approaches (pricing principles, budgeting, and planning). • Exchange operational practices: quality management, safety, maintenance planning, data management and reporting. 	



- Identify concrete collaboration opportunities (staff exchanges, joint training modules, inter-laboratory benchmarking) and explore a cooperation instrument such as a MoU.
- Agree on a short cooperation roadmap with follow-up actions and responsible focal points.

Visit programme/agenda (preliminary draft programme, subject to confirmation)

Day 1 – Institutional presentation and meeting with university authorities

- Welcome and introductions
- Presentation of BIOREN-UFRO and SmartC-BIOREN (mission, governance, service portfolio)
- Meeting with Universidad de La Frontera (UFRO) authorities (subject to availability) to provide strategic context on the role of the Research Nucleus and to explore general avenues for cooperation

Day 2 – Visit to BIOREN and other UFRO facilities/units

- Guided tour of BIOREN-UFRO facilities and laboratories (capabilities, workflows, safety)
- Complementary visits to other relevant UFRO units/departments (as appropriate and subject to availability)
- Exchange session on operations, user support and service delivery model

Day 3 – Seminar: presentation of the Nucleus’ research

- Technical-scientific seminar showcasing key research lines, capabilities and representative cases
- Short presentations by Nucleus researchers (topics to be defined)
- Q&A session and identification of common interests

Day 4 – Cooperation building with Nucleus researchers

- Thematic meetings / working sessions with researchers from different areas
- Identification of concrete collaboration opportunities (joint projects, training, mobility, shared use of infrastructure)
- Drafting a preliminary cooperation roadmap and discussing possible instruments (e.g., a MoU)

Day 5 – Closing and next steps

- Summary of outcomes and preliminary agreements
- Definition of follow-up actions and focal points
- Closing of the meeting

Number of participants

5

(up to 5 participants)



Background information on the EU-CELAC Working Group on Research Infrastructures

The internationalisation of research infrastructures (RI) and the cooperation of RI between Europe and its partner regions are becoming increasingly important. This development is reflected in the framework of collaboration between the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Since the adoption of the Common Research Area (CRA) by the **Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation – Senior Officials Meeting (JIRI SOM)** in 2016, RI cooperation has been one of the four strategic pillars of this process. The other pillars are mobility, global challenges and since 2020: innovation.

To further enhance cooperation between the two regions in this area, the European Commission (EC), together with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, has established the **EU-CELAC Working Group on Research Infrastructures (RI WG)**. The objective of this RI WG is to coordinate and harmonise (bi-)regional policy coordination, share best practices, and exchange experiences in developing policies and mapping research infrastructures. EU member states and CELAC countries each have appointed a delegate to represent their interests in the RI WG, mostly representatives of ministries or funding agencies.

The **EU-CELAC Ministerial Meeting** held in Brussels, Belgium, on 29 September 2025, focusing on the Ministerial Declaration¹ and New Agenda for EU-CELAC Cooperation in Research and Innovation² has shown that the RI WG has strong support on political level.

Information on the study visits

It is foreseen to organise a total of ten study visits to EU and CELAC research infrastructures in 2026. Foreseen are five in each region, with an average of five participants per visit (depending of the demand of the involved RIs)..

Objectives of the study visits:

- Foster concrete cooperation between RIs in the EU and CELAC through study visits, skills development, and direct exchanges;
- Explore possibility of signing cooperation instruments like Memorandum of Understanding or similar documents
- Share best practices and expertise on access models, business models, management approaches, and operational needs of research infrastructures,
- Raise awareness of the scientific potential of RIs and increase interest in EU–CELAC cooperation, especially identification of topics of common interest;
- Increase the visibility and impact of RIs in both regions.

¹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/c02df456-a143-41a6-b384-e1f96e9e560f_en?filename=ec_rtd_ministerial-declaration-eu-celac-ri.pdf

² https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/c46b61b5-753f-424b-8cda-e2e8b3a626a5_en?filename=ec_rtd_new-agenda-eu-celac-cooperation-ri.pdf



Target group: RI managers and high-level technical staff.

Selection process of the host institutions: During the virtual meeting of the EU-CELAC-RI Working Group at the end of November 2025, delegates selected five institutions in each region. The host institutions for the study visits were selected on the basis of the following criteria: existing agreements between research infrastructures in the EU and Latin America/Caribbean and/or particular interest in cooperation; thematic research area; expected impact of the study visits. The results are listed below.

Selection results of host institutions in CELAC:

Rank	Name	Country
1	Clemente Estable Research Institute	Uruguay
2	Regional Center for Innovation in Vaccines & Biopharmaceuticals (CRIVB AIP)	Panama
3	National Nanotechnology Laboratory (LANOTEC-CeNAT)	Costa Rica
4	Center for Research, Development and Innovation of Computer Systems (CIDIS)	Ecuador
5	SmartC-BIOREN (Service Management Analytical Research and Training Center)	Chile

Selection results of host institutions in EU:

Rank	Name	Country
1	Institut Pasteur Paris	France
2	ORFEO (Open Research Facility for Epigenomics and Other)	Italy
3	i3S – Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde da Universidade do Porto	Portugal
4	RECETOX RI, EIRENE (Research Infrastructure for Environmental Exposure assessment in Europe)	Czech Republic
5	Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC)	Spain

Selection process of participants: Host RIs will be closely involved in the participant selection process. Selection criteria are: mutual cooperation interest, foreseen impact, regional factor (preferably the participants come from different countries). This process ensures meeting the exact needs and cooperation interest of the hosting institutions and a greater impact of the study visits.

Organisation of the study visits: The Global Service Facility (GSF) of the European Commission will develop and implement an online application process for participants in the study visits. The GSF will prepare, organise and follow-up the study visits in coordination with the host institution.



Financial details: Travel and accommodation costs will be sponsored by the European Commission according to their guidelines. Local transportation, lunch and coffee breaks shall be covered by the host institution.