



alis

Alliance for the information society



European Commission

Genesis of the @lis cooperation programme

The cooperation programme @lis – Alliance for the information society – is the result of the political dialogue between the Heads of State or of Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1999.

With @lis, the European Commission aims to extend the benefits of the information society to all citizens in Latin America and reduce the digital divide between those who have access to the new information technologies and those who are excluded from the information society.

Adopted by decision of the European Commission on 6th December 2001, the @lis programme has a budget of € 85 millions of which € 63.5 millions (75%) will be financed by the European Commission, the rest coming from the contributions made by the partners of the programme.



Chris Patten,
Commissioner responsible
for external relations

"The information society should play a key role in deepening our relations between Latin America and the European Union. The European Commission identified last year the information society as the priority sector for region-wide economic co-operation with Latin America. @lis is a strategic project for improved economic development and citizens' participation in the global information society, implementing orientations of the 1999 Rio Summit of Heads of State or Government".

The objectives of @lis are

- Stimulate the cooperation between European and Latin-American partners.
- Facilitate the integration of the Latin-American countries in a global information society.
- Promote the dialogue between all players and users of the information society.
- Increase the interconnection between Research & Development communities of both regions.
- Meet the needs of local communities and citizens, as part of a sustainable development.
- Implement innovative applications that are duplicable, such as computer programmes, the installation of material or the set up of networks.



Erkki Liikanen,

Commissioner responsible
for information society

"The European Union attaches great importance to developing the information society in an inclusive manner, and fighting against the digital divide, both within and between regions and countries. This programme will provide us with the means of pursuing these objectives through a long term partnership, bringing tangible social and economical benefits to both regions".

Three intervention fields

The activities of the programme fall within the scope of three intervention fields: the dialogues, the networks and the demonstration projects.

@lis supports two dialogues

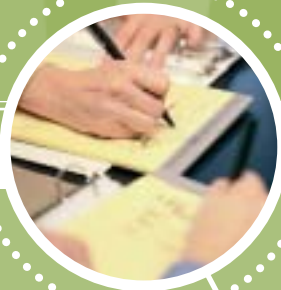
Political and regulatory dialogue

@lis intends to stimulate the political and regulatory dialogue between the two regions and favour the definition of regional e-strategies inspired by the eEurope initiative. This initiative launched during the Lisbon European Council in March 2000 sets a new ambitious frontier for Europe: to become the world's most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy.

The definition and execution of national and sub-regional action plans based on these e-strategies will allow each country and region concerned to best integrate the information society.

Dialogue on the standards

The objective is to promote the European system of standardisation, based on open and international standards, and to create medium and long-term partnerships between Europe and Latin America for the definition of telecommunication standards.



@lis funds demonstration projects

Twenty applications originating in demonstration projects fulfill the objectives of @lis on the field. For instance, the applications will involve the conception of new computer programmes, the installation of material, the set up of networks between organisations or the creation of Internet web-sites.

They will be implemented in four priority sectors:

- e-local governance,
- e-education and cultural diversity,
- e-public health,
- e-inclusion.



@lis sets up three networks

Network of regulators

Workshops and meetings build up a network between regulators, operators and companies of both regions. Furthermore, a training programme for the staff of Latin-American regulatory organisations stimulates the exchange of experiences and familiarizes Latin-Americans to the European regulatory framework.

Network of researchers

With the installation of a band-with network linking European and Latin-American researchers and educational

centers, @lis aspires to multiply the studies led jointly by both regions in the field of the information society and to support the completion of joint projects.

Network of stakeholders

Since the information society is not limited to researchers, legislators and decision-makers, @lis intends to be close to the citizen and to address the civil society as a whole. By means of virtual communities, seminars and Internet-twinning, @lis spreads the benefits of the information society to all actors and users and enables them to access the new technological tools.

**Political and regulatory
dialogue**

**Dialogue
on the standards**

**Network of
regulators**

**Network of
researchers**

**Network of
stakeholders**

Demonstration projects

**e-local
governance**

**e-education and
cultural diversity**

e-public health

e-inclusion

Who can participate?

The *@lis* programme aims to include the civil society as a whole and in particular non-profit organisations established in the 15 countries of the European Union and 18 Latin American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

The programme is open to the participation of the Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint-Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago).



Activities open to participation

Political and regulatory dialogue

A partner organisation of the European Commission stimulates the political dialogue and provides support for the development of regional e-strategies and the elaboration and execution of national and sub-regional action plans that favour the development of the information society in Latin America. Strategic workshops and an annual forum complete these activities.

Dialogue on the standards

A partner organisation of the European Commission presents the European system of standardisation during workshops and meetings. Synergies with competent Latin-American institutes in the field of standardisation are considered.



Network of regulators

Information exchange workshops, meetings and a permanent virtual forum provide support for the setting up of an exchange platform between European and Latin-American regulators in charge of communication and information technologies. A training programme intended for decision-makers and technical staff strengthens the network.

Network of researchers

A partner organisation of the European Commission sets up and manages a band-with network interconnecting European and Latin-American researchers and educational centres.

Network of stakeholders

In order to reduce the digital divide in Latin America and to give citizens better access to the information society, a Virtual Information Society Observatory (VISO) as well as Virtual Thematic Communities stimulate the dialogue within civil society. On the field, the initiative takes shape by means of the implementation of Internet-twinning between cities, NGO's, schools, etc.

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