

WINDS-Caribe Newsletter

Fostering EU-Caribbean ICT research cooperation

Issue 2, October/November 2008



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Editorial

Welcome to the second issue of the **WINDS-Caribe Newsletter "Fostering EU-Caribbean ICT research cooperation"**, produced by the WINDS-Caribe project with the support of the European Commission, presenting reflections, news and events related to Europe-Caribbean cooperation in ICT research.

Different key events focused on ICT research, development and innovation are taking place in both regions. The WINDS-Caribe project actively participates in them organizing special meetings and presentations to foster cooperation between Europe and Latin America through the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), one of the main opportunities and tools to turn cooperation efforts into actual results.

Caribbean institutions (research centers, universities, companies and SMEs) interested to promote their Research & Development (R&D) capabilities are invited to be involved in these activities. WINDS-Caribe offers diverse mechanisms to support them in defining and fine tuning project ideas and to help them build international project consortia in order to apply to the FP7.

Every three months WINDS-Caribe produces and spreads this newsletter, to help the circulation of key ICT research information across the European and Caribbean regions. If you want to contribute to this newsletter by sending us your news, events and research ideas, please do not hesitate to email us to communication@winds-lac.eu

Enjoy your reading,

[The WINDS-Caribe team](#)

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The **WINDS-Caribe website** (www.winds-lac.eu) has been setup and is being populated with registered users. This tool was developed in cooperation with the WINDS-Latin America project which was launched previously at the beginning of 2007. Although both projects share the main goals and objectives on international cooperation in ICT research, specific content and features has been designed to better suit the Caribbean needs and initiatives.

Following six months of intense work and consultations, WINDS-Caribe produced the **ICT Research in the Caribbean Report**, which includes the most relevant ICT research institutions in the region, as well as an analysis of the most important research themes. Another report titled "**ICT research in Europe Report**" presents the themes at stake and the policies in support of ICT research in the European Union.

In the last three months, the WINDS-Caribe team carried out **three preparatory missions** to each of the three Caribbean countries involved in the project (Martinique, Jamaica and Dominican Republic) in order to meet key actors and discuss themes of interest for the region, and to prepare the three Conferences that will be organised in the next months. The project raised a lot of interest and engagement from the ICT communities, showing the high potential of the Caribbean region to transform in a key partner for Europe in the ICT research field.

The three WINDS-Caribe Conferences are:

- the **WINDS@ANTILLES** Conference will be organised on the 11-12 December in Fort-de-France, Martinique, in collaboration with the Université Antille Guyane (UAG);
- the **WINDS@Santo Domingo** Conference will be organised on the 5-6 February in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), in collaboration with the Universidad Iberoamericana;
- the **WINDS@West Indies** Conference will be organised on the 3rd week of March.

To follow the development of these events, please visit the [Events section](#) of the WINDS-Caribe project website. In [the WINDS News section](#) you will find information about related activities, calls and initiatives that complement the WINDS-Caribe actions.

The WINDS-Caribe database: a key opportunity for visibility

WINDS-Caribe is building a database of ICT research organisations and projects from the Caribbean, with the aim to increase the visibility of those actors among European researchers and project promoters.

The first step is to register in the [WINDS-Caribe website](#); by doing so you will not only get updated with news and information but also be able to find opportunities of sharing experiences and knowledge with people who is working on the same issues like you in other countries.

Once you are registered, you will be able to include the profile of your organisation and projects in the [WINDS-Caribe Database](#), by selecting the appropriate option in the right menu. Please fill in your information in English, so to target the EU community.

Other benefits of engaging with the project are:

- get fresh and updated information on European funding possibility for ICT research, in domains like ICT for learning, ICT for health, software engineering, mobile computing, and many other subjects;
- participate in the collaborative clusters section, working in cooperation with researchers from the Caribbean and from Europe on specific project ideas (available soon);
- access the WINDS Helpdesk, to ask for information on the Seventh Framework Programme, ways to access, working mechanisms, future calls, etc.
- receive the WINDS-Caribe Newsletter, a bulletin presenting news, events and interesting data on EU-Caribbean ICT research cooperation.

WINDS-Caribe wants to be an open and flexible service platform, and is open to ideas and suggestion, if you want to contact the project team, please email us to communication@winds-lac.eu

“ICT Research in the Caribbean” Report: a milestone for EU-Caribbean cooperation

One of the main obstacles to successful EU-Caribbean cooperation in ICT research, as in other fields, is the lack of knowledge by European research community of the research institutions, projects and priorities in the Caribbean region.

To close this gap, the WINDS-Caribe project, has produced the "[ICT R&D in the Caribbean](#) Report, which presents an overview of ICT research in the Caribbean Region, in terms of research stakeholders (founders, research institutions and other actors involved), research projects and key research themes.

After a general overview introduction, the report is divided in five sections. The first four sections are focused on the three sub-regions of the Caribbean (French-speaking, Spanish-speaking and English-speaking) and on regional initiatives. The fifth and final section is focused on specific research themes which have emerged as the most relevant ones from an analysis of the regional situation, including a first attempt to identify some themes of EU-Caribbean common interest and benefit. Those themes will then be validated along the activities that WINDS-Caribe will be running, such as the three Conferences in the Caribbean.

The report represents an effort to describe very different situations, such as the ICT research initiatives in relatively developed countries as Trinidad versus the problematic situation in Haiti. In addition, it adopts a flexible vision of ICT research to take into account some cases, actors and practices with potential to be involved into ICT for development, research adaptation and application.

You are invited to download the Report and contact the project team for suggesting any addition, improvement and comment. **We value your opinion, email us!** communication@winds-lac.eu

FP7 News



FP7 works through biannual Work Programmes, which are documents that set the priorities, objectives and calls schedules for a two-year period. The Work Programme for the period 2009-2010 will be announced at the end of November 2008, and next Calls for Proposals are expected in the same period.

The 2009-2010 Work Programme for ICT research in the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) will be presented in detail at the ICT-Lyon 2008 Event. Other sources of EU research funding for ICT will also be examined, including the new Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). These initiatives together represent more than €2 billion in EU support for ICT research over the next two years. All those possibilities are open for Latin American partners!

To be kept updated on the next FP7 steps, just register at the [WINDS database](#) and you will get all fresh news on EU ICT research cooperation possibilities.

Find more information at the [FP7 section of our site](#) and all the documentation related to these calls at the [CORDIS website](#)

ICT Lyon 2008: CARIBBEAN PROPOSALS AT ICT- LYON!

The [biennial ICT Event](#) is the most important forum for discussing research and public policy in information and communication technologies at European level. The Event brings together researchers and innovators, policy and business decision-makers working in the field of digital technologies.

The ICT Event:

- Presents Europe's future priorities for research funding in the ICT area
- Examines crucial issues of public policy for stimulating innovation through ICT development and uptake
- Creates opportunities to establish research and business partnerships and simply keep up to date in what is happening in various ICT research fields.

The ICT Event is organised by the European Commission's [Directorate General for the Information Society and Media](#) and is usually hosted by the current Presidency of the European Union.

[WINDS-Caribe](#) Project, in cooperation with [SOLAR-ICT](#) is organising a full week of events in order to promote Caribbean ICT research capacities and competencies in Europe and to facilitate contacts between researchers from both regions. For more info on these activities and for indications on how to join us, please visit our [website](#).

One of those activities is the "Networking session" that will take place on Thursday November 27 at 9.30 AM in the Lyon ICT 2008 event.

The Networking Session is structured in 2 phases:

- The first phase will present interventions from 4 high level research leaders from the following four themes: e-Health and uptake of common EU-LAC standards in EMR; Digital TV and perspectives for European Technologies in LAC; ICT for learning and digital resources; e-Infrastructure.
- The second phase will continue the previous presentations through four discussions in focused networking sessions taking place at "thematic tables", to which the audience will be invited to join according to individual interests (each table will count with the presence of representatives from successful EU-LAC FP6 and FP7 projects). Each table will also be invited to provide a short resume of discussion and suggestions/requests for future actions.

This Networking Session is strictly linked with the Latin America and Caribbean ICT Gateway stand, where participants will have the opportunity to disseminate their work and field interests and meet with members of the WINDS-Caribe consortia and with the speakers of the session.

All those who are interested in attending these events will be able to do it participating in person to all conferences and meetings or sending their project ideas that will be arranged and circulated among key people of each field.

To be part of the Latin American delegation in Lyon and Brussels, please express your interest by email to [Soraya Hidalgo](#). It is important to register your institution in the [WINDS database](#) and fill in the project idea in a [template form](#) (DOC format).

In case you cannot attend the events, we suggest you to register your institution in the [WINDS database](#) and fill in the project idea in a [template form](#) to have the chance European researchers can take into account your proposal when they look for partners for their projects.

Upcoming Events

25-27 November: ICT Lyon 2008

During the ICT event, WINDS-Caribe will be promoting Caribbean ICT research excellence through the "**Latin America ICT Gateway**" stand; furthermore on the 26 of November, a dedicated **Networking Session** will be organised to facilitate the contacts and enhance networking activities between LA and Caribbean partners and the European counterpart.

11-12 December 2008: WINDS-Caribe Conference in Fort de France, Martinique

The first WINDS-Caribe Conference will take place in Martinique on the 11th and 12th of December. The event will aim at gathering ICT researchers and research stakeholders from the whole French-speaking Caribbean sub-region, in order to present the possibilities offered by FP7 and to facilitate aggregation and networking of researchers around potential areas of collaboration with Europe. The Conference is organised under the coordination of the WINDS-Caribe local partner, RIVELLO, with the support of the Université Antille Guyane. For more information please contact Mr. Olivier Moreau, o.moreau@rivello.net.

5-6 February 2009: WINDS-Caribe Conference in Dominican Republic

The second WINDS-Caribe Conference will take place in Santo Domingo on the 5th and 6th of February. The event will aim at gathering ICT researchers and research stakeholders from the whole Spanish-speaking Caribbean sub-region, in order to present the possibilities offered by FP7 and to facilitate aggregation and networking of researchers around potential areas of collaboration with Europe. The Conference is organised under the coordination of the WINDS-Caribe local partner, UNIBE. For more information please contact Mr. Darwin Muñoz, d.munoz@unibe.edu.do.

Third week of March 2009: WINDS-Caribe Conference in Jamaica

The third WINDS-Caribe Conference will take place in Martinique on the 3rd week of March (dates under definition). The event will aim at gathering ICT researchers and research stakeholders from the whole English-speaking Caribbean sub-region, in order to present the possibilities offered by FP7 and to facilitate aggregation and networking of researchers around potential areas of collaboration with Europe. The Conference is organised under the coordination of the WINDS-Caribe local partner, CARIMAC, University of West Indies, in collaboration with the [Euroafrica-ICT project](#). For more information please contact Mr. Roderick Sanatan, roderick.sanatan@uwimona.edu.jm.

This newsletter has been produced with the support of the European Commission. The content of the newsletter is the sole responsibility of the WINDS-Caribe project

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