

### **SIDE MEETING: EPB, EU-PolarNet and Latin American countries**

On 5<sup>th</sup> of July, 2019 a side meeting was organised between the EPB, EU-PolarNet and Latin American representatives to the ATCM and CEP. This event was a follow-up to a side event organised by EU-PolarNet and EPB on 1<sup>st</sup> of July, which prompted interest in the work carried out by European organisations. Representatives from Latin American countries approached EU-PolarNet and EPB to inquire about the potential for collaboration. Under this premise, an informative/discussion meeting was organised to provide further information and answer questions on possibilities for cooperation on a European-/EU-level within projects. All Latin American countries present at ATCM (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay) were invited in person and in writing. The meeting was bilingual (English/Spanish) and informally arranged.

#### **Agenda**

- Presentation on EU-projects dynamics
- Presentation on EPB facilitation
- Example EU-Arctic (polar) Cluster
- Possibilities for future interactions (new FP)
- How to deal for interactions
- Q&A

#### **Attendees:**

- Antonio Quesada, Spain, organiser
- Nicole Biebow, EU-PolarNet
- Renuka Badhe, EPB
- Brazil, representative
- Chile, representative
- Colombia, representative
- Peru, representative
- Spain, representative
- Uruguay, representative

#### **Apologies:**

Argentina sent apologies as their presence was needed in other meetings happening in parallel.

#### **Conclusions**

All participants indicated their interest in participating in European projects. They are happy to recommend to both their funding agencies and diplomatic machinery to establish formal and

informal links with the EU and European countries to tighten scientific and logistical links for polar (particularly Antarctic) projects in different areas of interest.

In general, a further development of the cooperation is considered a win-win relationship for both sides. European Projects can benefit from the Antarctic expertise, scientific quality and logistical strength of Latin American countries, who in turn can benefit from participation in large consortia with substantial budgets for projects focused on topics of importance and relevance at national, regional and international levels.

The meeting participants considered several upcoming European initiatives as highly relevant for future cooperation. Part of EPB's mandate is to work as a single contact point for all its Member organisations in Europe, and can bring the different European Antarctic Programs in contact with Latin American countries to help with their requests and questions. A closer relationship of the EPB with the Meeting of Administrators of Latin American Antarctic Programs (RAPAL) is strongly anticipated, noting that Chile will host the upcoming RAPAL meeting in October 2019.

The short meeting was successful and it is proposed that a follow-up should be organised at the next ATCM, or an earlier suitable occasion.