

EDITORIAL

Nancy Rampaphorn

Deputy Director of Engagement and Technology Marketing

Technology Transfer and Development Office

UC Research Vice Presidency



Building Solutions from the Region: UC Chile and its Participation in the WAITRO Network

In a global context where social, environmental, and productive challenges require increasingly complex and collaborative solutions, the participation of universities in international applied research networks has become strategically important. For the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (UC Chile), being part of the WAITRO network (World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations) represents precisely that: a concrete opportunity to project its knowledge to the world and strengthen its contribution to sustainable development from Latin America.

WAITRO brings together leading institutions in applied research, innovation, and technology transfer from different continents. Being part of this community not only enables the exchange of best practices but also fosters partnerships to develop joint solutions to global challenges such as climate change, public health, digital transformation, and territorial sustainability.

For UC Chile, this participation is aligned with a deep conviction: knowledge reaches its greatest value when it is connected to society's needs. In this sense, WAITRO expands our international collaboration capacities, facilitates access to new opportunities for joint projects, and positions the university as a relevant actor within networks that promote impact-driven research.

Likewise, this connection strengthens the role of UC Chile as a bridge between knowledge generation and its implementation in public policies, technological solutions, and science-based entrepreneurship. Actively participating in WAITRO also makes it possible to showcase experiences developed in Chile and Latin America, helping ensure that solutions emerging from our territories become part of the global responses to the challenges of the 21st century.

Within the framework of the UC Strategic Plan 2026–2030, which promotes research increasingly connected to society and oriented toward solving complex national and global challenges, participation in WAITRO reinforces a key line of action: internationalizing technology transfer and expanding collaboration networks to scale the impact of the knowledge generated at the university.

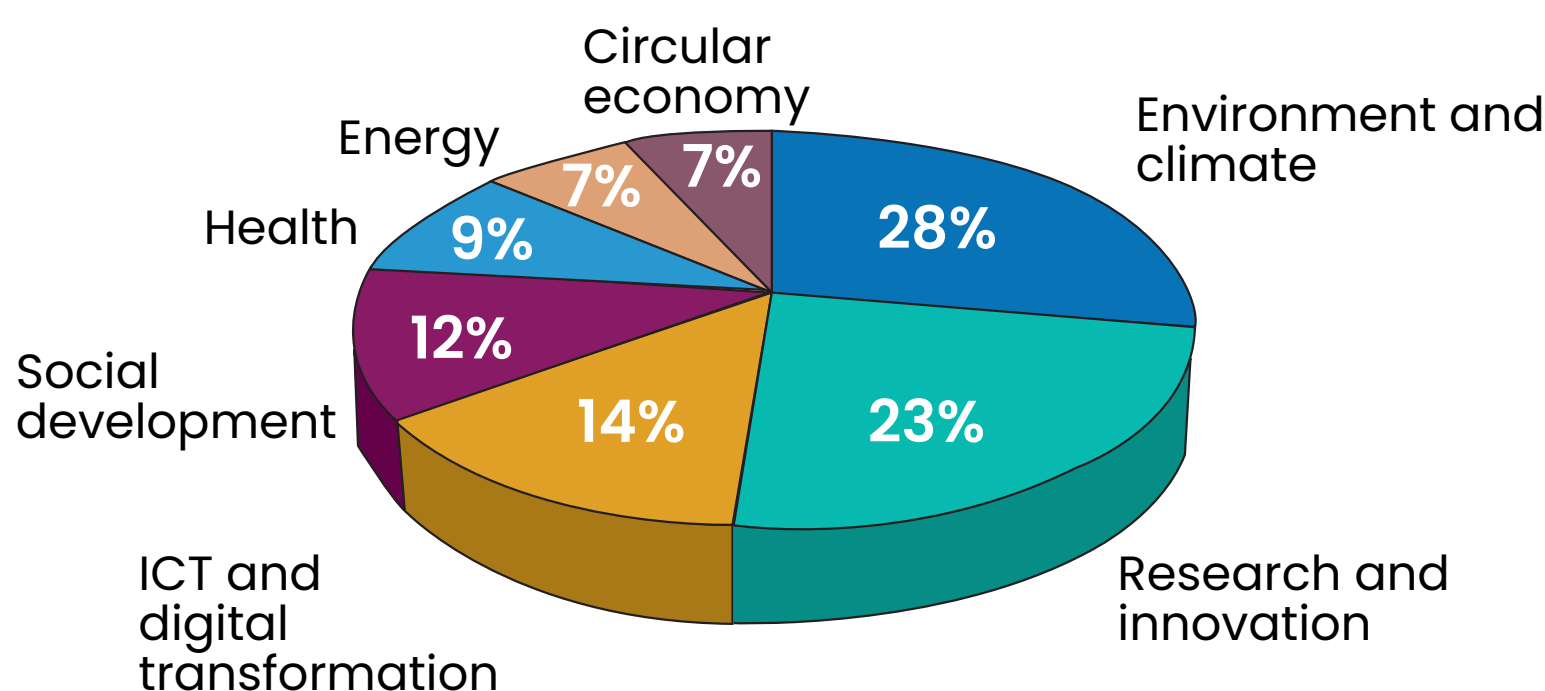
Being part of WAITRO is not only about joining a network. It means embracing the commitment to work collaboratively so that science and innovation effectively contribute to building a more sustainable, inclusive, and evidence-based future. Along this path, UC Chile seeks to remain an active, connected, and committed actor addressing the global challenges of our time.

ABOUT US

Opportunity Monitoring for the WAITRO LAC Network

34
opportunities shared
with the WAITRO LAC network since
the end of March to date

Call Topics



WAITRO Advances in Sustainability, Strategic Partnerships, and Preparations for the 2026 Summit

WAITRO

SUMMIT

ISTANBUL

2026

From April 22 to 24, the WAITRO Board Meeting took place in Cologne, Germany, where participants reviewed the significant progress and key lessons learned from the Capacity Development Initiative (CDI), which has delivered high value to members through specialized webinars.

One of the main topics discussed was the long-term organizational sustainability plan, which includes strengthening WAITRO’s role as a partner in international project consortia and strategic initiatives. Progress in formalizing partnerships with organizations such as the Belmont Forum was also highlighted, opening new collaboration opportunities for members worldwide.

Another important development is the NICE–WAITRO Innovation Bridge Program, aimed at strengthening engagement with Chinese industry and creating new opportunities for applied research and commercialization.

At the same time, preparations for the WAITRO Summit 2026 are moving forward, including co-creation workshops, a climate solutions initiative, dedicated WAITRO sessions, and seminars in collaboration with strategic partners.

The Board also received an update on the new communication strategy led by WAITRO Operations, which includes the launch of three email communication channels:

- **Global Update (4 times per year):** Featuring network news and global visibility opportunities for members and partners.
- **Management Brief (2 to 6 times per year):** targeted to official contact points, with administrative and strategic updates.
- **Opportunities Feed (regular updates):** focused on researchers and staff, sharing calls, funding opportunities, and relevant announcements.



These developments reflect WAITRO’s commitment to strengthening its community, expanding collaboration opportunities, and generating greater impact through science, technology, and innovation.



ACTIVATE YOUR WAITRO MEMBERSHIP BY THE 15TH OF JUNE!

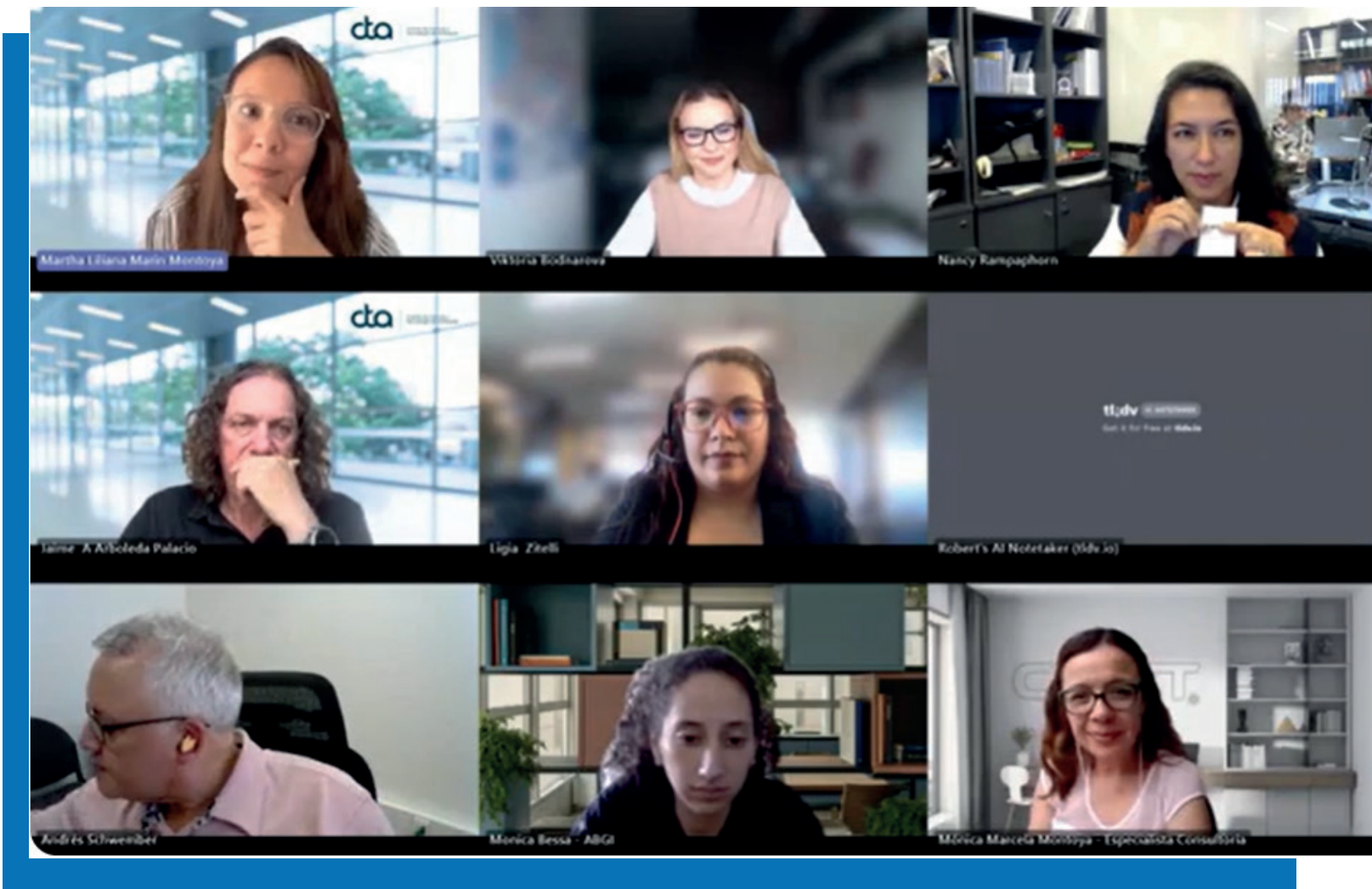
Become part of international initiatives, collaboration opportunities, and the WAITRO Summit 2026 in Istanbul, Türkiye, by **activating** your WAITRO membership.

For more information, contact us:
mmarin@cta.org.co, d.reinertz@waitro.org

Opening Doors to Europe: Key Insights for Accessing International Cooperation Opportunities

The webinar “Cooperation Opportunities with Horizon Europe” became a strategic space to connect organizations, companies, and institutions with one of the world’s leading funding programs for research and innovation.

This session, developed as part of a joint strategy between WAITRO and the Centro de Ciencia y Tecnología de Antioquia (CTA), aimed to strengthen international cooperation capacities in science, technology, and innovation, with a special focus on Colombia and the Latin American region.



During the event, participants gained first-hand insights into how Horizon Europe works, as well as practical tools to access calls for proposals, build strategic partnerships, and connect with high-level international networks.

This initiative reaffirms the commitment of WAITRO and CTA to promote the internationalization of science and facilitating the connection of regional talent with global development opportunities.

Watch the webinar recording here:



NEWS IN THE NETWORK

Asia and the Pacific Drive Innovation in Sustainable Food Systems at Regional Symposium in Bangkok

In June 2026, Bangkok will host the regional symposium “From Agro Resources to Global Markets: Scaling Innovation in Sustainable Food Processing”, bringing together experts and leading organizations in agri-food innovation from across the Asia-Pacific region.

The event will feature distinguished representatives from WAITRO member organizations, including CSIR India, Nanjing Tech University, BRIN, SIRIM Malaysia, TISTR, NFI Thailand, and CSIRO.

Participants will share experiences, advances, and perspectives on scaling innovation in sustainable food processing and connecting agro-industrial resources with global markets.

The symposium will take place on site in Bangkok and is positioned as a key platform for knowledge exchange, partnership building, and discussions on innovative solutions to the challenges facing the agri-food sector.

Initiatives such as this reflect WAITRO’s role as a network that fosters international collaboration and strengthens capacities among its members, advancing science, technology, and innovation toward global impact.



WATERPROOF Project Advances Innovative Technology for CO₂ Valorisation



The international WATERPROOF project continues to make significant progress in the development of innovative solutions for industrial decarbonization and the circular economy. During the consortium’s latest meeting, key advances were presented in the electrochemical conversion of CO₂ into formic acid, a technology with strong potential for sustainable carbon utilization.

One of the most important milestones was the visit to the HVC plant in Alkmaar, where the consortium inaugurated and launched the demonstration plant that will serve as the pilot for the technology developed within the project. This achievement represents a major step toward validating the solution under real operating conditions, integrating CO₂ capture and conversion processes to support more sustainable and circular industrial models.

The commissioning of this plant opens new opportunities for the industrial-scale implementation of carbon valorisation technologies and reinforces the consortium’s commitment to developing innovative solutions to global climate challenges.

The WATERPROOF project brings together a distinguished international consortium of organizations leading in research, innovation, and sustainability, including Avantium, HVC, Waternet, CTA, Tecnalia, Funditec, nova-Institute, IZES, Nordic Fish Leather, Coatema, and Coraltech, all working collaboratively to accelerate the transition toward cleaner and more efficient production processes.

RTOs from Latin America and the Caribbean Advance Collaborative Proposal for WAITRO Regional Programme

Universidad CES, Fraunhofer Chile, the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and CTA joined capacities and expertise to design a proposal aimed at strengthening best practices among RTOs in Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of the WAITRO Regional Programme.

The initiative was collaboratively developed by participating organizations and successfully advanced to the second phase of the selection process. The team is currently awaiting the final decisions of the evaluation committee.

This effort reflects WAITRO LAC’s commitment to regional articulation, collaborative work, and the development of initiatives that strengthen the capacities of research and technology organizations across the region.

International Consortium Promotes Triangular Cooperation Proposal to Strengthen RTO Capacities in LAC and Africa

Within the framework of the triangular cooperation call under the “Triangular Platform for Development – TriNova”, a group of international organizations, including RTOs from Latin America and the Caribbean, joined forces to formulate a proposal focused on capacity building, knowledge transfer, and the sustainable development of RTOs.

The initiative is promoted by the Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación Internacional de Colombia and GIZ, and brings together in consortium CTA, Fraunhofer Chile, WAITRO Operations e.V., and the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council.

The proposal seeks to strengthen research and technology organizations through the exchange of experiences and best practices within the framework of the Kaizen for Africa initiative, led by JICA.

This collaboration reflects the opportunities generated through the WAITRO network and its contribution to triangular cooperation by connecting capacities across regions and fostering collaborative solutions with high impact for the sustainable development of diverse territories.

Showcase Your Global Impact

Through WAITRO's Communication Platform

WAITRO continues to strengthen opportunities to increase the international visibility of its members' work. Through the Global Outreach – Communication & Dissemination initiative, organizations across the network can share news, projects, events, calls, and achievements with a global audience connected to science, technology, and innovation.

This platform helps amplify members' initiatives through publications on the WAITRO website, newsletters, and social media channels, contributing to the creation of new connections, partnerships, and opportunities for international collaboration.

In addition to promoting institutional news and events, this space aims to highlight projects contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to strengthen the visibility of organizational capacities both within and beyond the WAITRO network.

We encourage all WAITRO LAC members to take advantage of this tool to share their activities and continue positioning the impact of our region within the global innovation ecosystem.

More information here:



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE WITH THE WAITRO NETWORK?

Send us your events, news, courses, certifications, or updates on joint projects with other members.

Be part of our upcoming newsletter — we'd love to hear from you!



WAITRO Secretariat

211800, No.7 Huafu Road, R&D Park, Jiangbei New District
Nanjing, Jiangsu, China
info@waitro.org

