

EDITORIAL



Together we can achieve more: Strengthening our networks for a sustainable future

Jaime Arboleda Palacio

Over the past four years, we've learned that there are many networks, and sometimes it's hard to understand how to get the most out of them, realize the greatest benefits, and, at the same time, contribute to making the network sustainable, strengthening it, and allowing knowledge to circulate in the best way possible.

Since 2019, we have been the focal point of Waitro in Latin America and during our time as an RFP, we have understood that capitalizing on our network presence requires clarity in several aspects. First, we must allocate resources to take advantage of the spaces this network provides us. Second, it's critical to have clear goals on why we're part of this network. This is a mutual exchange, a dynamic of giving and receiving. In Latin America, we have found that this mindset has worked better for us than focusing solely on the number of organizations present. Here, we are a group of colleagues who, over time, have established trusting relationships through our work together, prompt response and search for spaces to collaborate. So, I want to make a call so that we continue to strengthen these dynamics. I am sure that, with the work we will carry out this year and with the strategies proposed by each of you, you will be able to capitalize on your participation in this network, both in terms of knowledge and, hopefully, financial resources. That's our purpose.

Our focus at the Center of Science and Technology of Antioquia is on connecting knowledge and technologies with our target audiences through our own agendas. We strongly believe that, in order to accelerate development and growth, it is essential to have allies that already possess mature knowledge and technologies rather than starting from scratch. Our strength lies in our ability to articulate and connect actors through networks, thus adding capabilities and experiences to generate solutions that benefit our target audiences.

Our goal at Waitro by 2023 is to encourage greater member participation in the network and build stronger engagement. To achieve this, we will focus on building our members' capabilities, identifying their interests and providing them with the necessary support. We aspire to make the most of the open innovation platform Zaira and promote its use among our members. In addition, we will work on structuring annual work plans with each of the organizations, ensuring that their participation meets their expectations and making adjustments accordingly.

We could move forward individually, but together we can achieve more ambitious goals. Let's work together to strengthen our network, build sustainable solutions and positively impact our target audiences. I am excited about what we can accomplish together and look forward to seeing the fruits of our collaboration.

SECRETARIAT

Executive Board of WAITRO 2023-2024, Secretariat of WAITRO 2023-2026 and Regional Focal Points (RFP)

The new Executive Board, which was elected during the 26th General Assembly in South Africa, took office on January 1.

At the General Assembly, the Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute (JITRI) was approved as host of the WAITRO Secretariat for the period 2023–26. Subsequently, the new Executive Board confirmed Paul Burrows (JITRI) as Secretary General and created (during the term of the current Secretariat) a new position of Chief Cabinet Officer to be held by Eckart Bierdämpel (Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft).

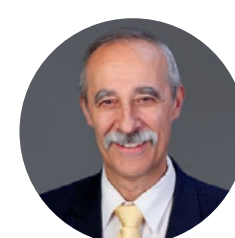
In addition, the Executive Board also approved the appointment of the following Regional Focal Points (RFPs):

- **Europe:** Leitat Technology Center, Spain
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Center of Science and Technology of Antioquia (CTA), Colombia
- **Sub-Saharan Africa:** Northwest University (NWU), South Africa
- **Asia Pacific:** Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR), Thailand
- **Middle East and North Africa:** The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey

SECRETARIAT (2023-2026)



WAITRO Secretary General
Paul Burrows



Chief of Staff
Eckart Bierdämpel
Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (Germany)

WAITRO Office Germany
Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (fhg)
Fraunhofer IZB In Sankt Augustin, Germany

WAITRO Office China
Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute (JITRI)
JITRI headquarters in Nanjing, China



Head of WAITRO Office Germany
Dominik Reinertz



WAITRO Secretary General
Paul Burrows



Communication
Andrea Santos



Program Coordinator
Ran Duan

EXECUTIVE BOARD (2023-2024)



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Hasan Mandal
Scientific and Technological
Research Council (Turkey)



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Cariri (Trinidad and Tobago)



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Asia and The Pacific
Theresia Ningsi Astuti
BRIN
(Indonesia)



Regional Representative
Europe
David Tveit
DTI
(Denmark)



Regional Representative
Latin America and the Caribbean
Jefferson de Oliveira Gomes
SENAI
(Brazil)

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ABOUT US

The following is the agenda of training spaces for 2023, these will be done virtually as a webinar. Prior to each of these activities, we will share the invitation with you with the schedule and name of the institution and the professional who act as facilitators.

28
JUNE
Best Practices for Project Formulation to Horizon Europe
Immaculada Miracle Montserrat



26
JULY
How to work in consortiums for the formulation and execution of Horizon Europe projects
Francisco Juliá



- Forum: Proven promotion mechanisms for the development of science and technology projects - **August 30**
- Digital Marketing and Transformation for RTO - **September 27**
- Technology Marketing - **October 25**
- Intellectual Property for technology / Scientific Diploma / WAITRO Member Presentation - **November 29**

** Temas y fechas sujetos a cambios por disponibilidad de agenda de conferencistas.*

RFP WORK PLAN 2023

The following is the work plan that we will advance from the Center of Science and Technology of Antioquia, as Regional Focal Point, in 2023. We expect from all of us, members of the WAITRO family, the greatest commitment to growing the network by generating more and better opportunities for all.

GOAL 1 Increase member engagement

- Capacity Building
- Promotion, Training and Use of SAIRA
- Structuring annual member work plans
- Promotion and execution of joint research projects

GOAL 2 Recruiting and reactivating members

- Searching and recruiting new members



GOAL 3 Support the Secretariat

- Identify region needs on training or other key topics to create value for members
- Identification of regional opportunities to consolidate the strategy of the Secretariat General

GOAL 4 Communications

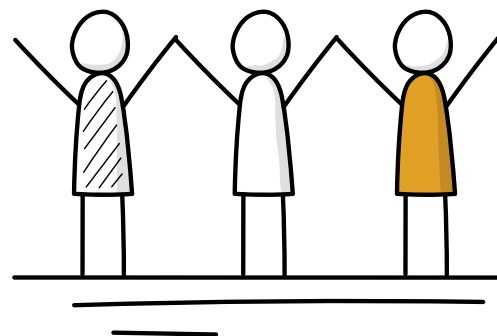
- Periodic meetings with members to provide relevant information about WAITRO
- Periodic meetings with RR
- Creation and dissemination of regional newsletters
- Reporting to the Secretary General

NETWORK

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER: TASK FORCE STRATEGY FOR STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION IN WAITRO

We are pleased to share with all Waitro members in Latin America and the Caribbean the exciting initiative being undertaken in Europe: **the Task Force strategy.**

This strategy, led by several European institutions headed by **Leitat**, has the main objective of *expanding our knowledge and capacity for project formulation and collaboration in consortiums.*



The coordination of the Task Force will be responsible for identifying, within the **Horizon Europe project and its 6 clusters**, the calls in which we could join and in which allies are required worldwide. This information will be available in a template that is accessible to all Waitro members.

As **Regional Focal Point**, we will be responsible for identifying and coordinating the participation of RTO institutions or associate members who wish to participate in these calls.

We will work together to identify the work packages and capabilities we can bring from our region. Once we have found the matches, we will use the open innovation platform **Saira**, to materialize and dynamically our shared interests.

This Task Force strategy represents an exciting opportunity to strengthen our collaboration and expand our impact in the region.

TASKS

WORK PLAN

Currently we are undertaking meetings with Waitro's members by inviting them to participate actively in the network towards better results and strengthening the skills of each member.



SAIRA PLATFORM

SAIRA is a platform that was created to promote international collaboration in research and development to work in pro of the SDG.

Bearing that in mind, Saira strives to use the power of collaborative innovation and research to contribute towards a more sustainable world.

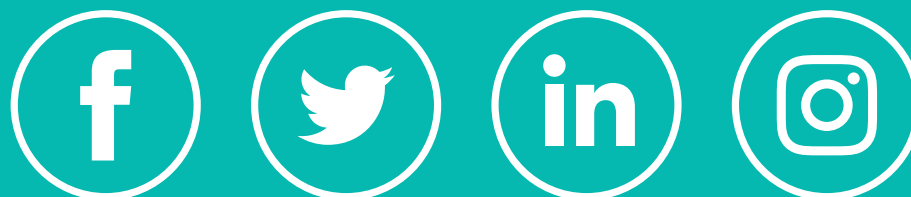
Click here to find out more: <https://saira.eco/saira2/pub/>

WAITRO Secretariat

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