

# RedCLARA

Follow the progress of ELCIRA in Latin America

Trying to build access to advanced computing capabilities

August 7, 2013:  
RedCLARA activates a 10 Gbps link from Buenos Aires to Porto Alegre

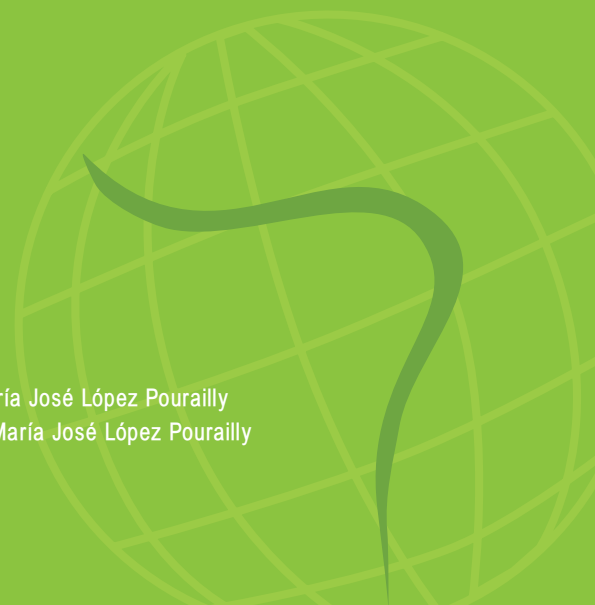




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# Editorial



**Marcela Larenas**

**Gerente de Estudios, RedCLARA**

In previous DeCLARA newsletter editorial, both the Program Committee Chairman and the Director of RENATA, enthusiastically invited to participate in TICAL2013 Conference, and predicted that the event in Cartagena de Indias would be a success, and, undoubtedly, it was.

Not only the expectations regarding the number of participants and of the quality and relevance of the presentations were achieved by the Conference, but also in every formal and informal conversation held in the framework of TICAL2013, it was remarked by the attendees the importance of participating in the event. Moreover, it was mentioned as an unmet aspiration the need of establishing an effective mechanism to continue in the long term the discussions raised within the context of each topic, and that giving birth to a "support network" would be useful and valuable in order to meet this aspiration.

During the little speech I gave at the closing session, at the request of the RedCLARA Management, I committed myself to look after the best ways to answer these requests, which is certainly a challenge that involves and commits all of us. Now I would like to tell you how we have been progressing in these lines and what do we expect to happen before we meet in TICAL2014.

First, we have formed the working groups, with the University ICT Heads and Directors that confirmed their interest to participate actively in the TICAL Community. The following issues have been identified as the major ones: Network Infrastructure and Mobile devices, Academic Services, Institutional Management Support

Service, and ICT Governance; however, due to the breadth of each topic, subtopics or specific discussion threads must be defined. New subjects emerged, such as the Legal Aspects to consider in the provision of technological services, issue that was very appreciated during the Conference. If you are still not integrated, or if you are interested in raising a new topic in the framework of the Community, please don't hesitate to contact me; the wider our participation, the more valuable our work.

The work plan will be set in the upcoming days with the participants of the different groups. But I would like to mention some complementary activities, that we think could support the discussion work, such as: discussions with relevant stakeholders to know their experience and knowledge in certain areas that will contribute to the groups discussions; we will search the establishment of alliances to access to trainings or training material; surveying information to enable us to identify common projects, problems or needs; and we will also look after tools that allows content generated by the Community to be consulted in an expeditious way by all stakeholders. These are some of the ideas that we are reviewing.

We know that the time we have is tight, but we also wish to attend the call of working together and supporting each other, because we understand that these challenges motivate us equally. The formation of this community must propitiate a space for knowledge and collaboration for our University ICT Directors, a space tailored to their needs, where they can share experiences, exchange knowledge, motivate initiatives, understand trends and discuss common issues, among others. It should also bring the possibility of establishing links between the institutions in order to create partnerships to leverage the synergies within the TICAL Community.

I invite you all to join us, so that we can show significant progress in our community during the TICAL2014 Conference that will be held in Mexico.

In Santiago, Chile:

# LAReferencia final project meeting

The meeting was held at the offices of the national network of Chile, REUNA on August 13 and 14, 2013 and was attended by representatives of each of the countries that are part of the Project: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela and El Salvador.

Tania Altamirano L.



With the aim of closing the project and to establish the work guidelines for the first year of operation of LAReferencia as a federated network , on August 13 and 14, 2013 was held a meeting attended by representatives of organizations that are in charge of the national nodes of each of the countries involved in the initiative.

According to Carmen Gloria Labbé, Deputy General Manager of RedCLARA and Strategic Coordinator of LAReferencia, the central point of the meeting was the development of an activity plan for 2014, the first year of work of the federated network, not as a project, but as an independent initiative that seeks a position in the region, the ensuring of its financial sustainability, strengthening national nodes and their incorporation into any international project.

## About LAReferencia

LAReferencia is a project presented by RedCLARA, funded by the Fund of Regional Public Goods of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which main purpose is the creation of an agreed strategy and agreements framework for the construction and maintenance of a federated network of institutional repositories of scientific publications for storing, sharing and disseminate the scientific production of Latin America.

LAReferencia is comprised of nine partner countries actively involved , represented by National Organizations for Science and Technology and Advanced Academic Networks : Argentina from: Brazil , Chile , Colombia , Ecuador , Mexico , Peru , Venezuela and El Salvador.

Website of LAReferencia: <http://lareferencia.redclara.net/rfr/>

August 7, 2013:

# RedCLARA activates a 10 Gbps link from Buenos Aires to Porto Alegre

The link on dark fiber provided by the Brazilian academic network RNP to RedCLARA, is already active and providing greater service availability to Argentina and Uruguay.

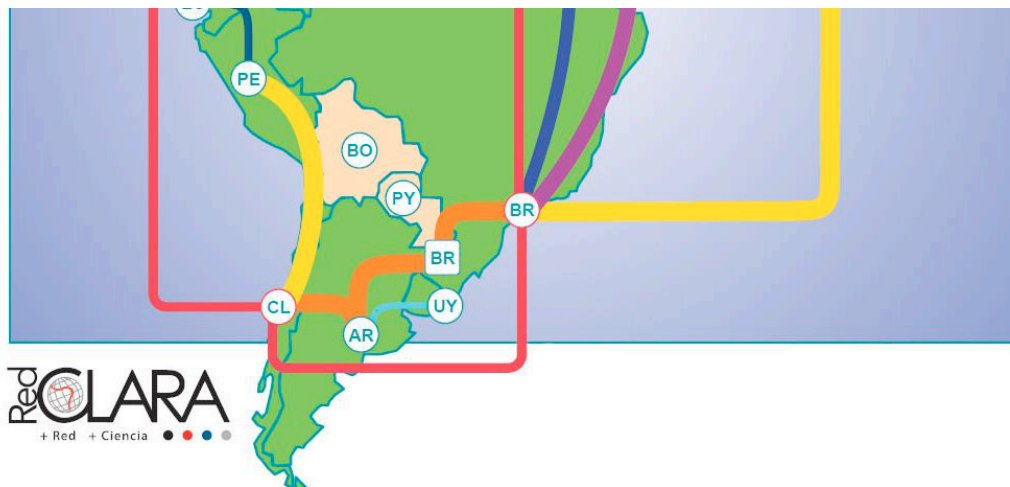
María José López Pourailly

2009 and is a joint effort of RNP, Level3 and RedCLARA, with PADTEC equipment.

This new link, whose equipments were also donated by RNP, connects Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Porto Alegre (Brazil) with a 10 Gbps lambda equipped with 8 Ethernet channels of 1 Gbps. From Porto Alegre to Sao Paulo, RNP provides a dedicated channel of 1Gbps.

The link is very important as it gives greater service availability to Argentina and Uruguay and improves service latency, reducing the data transfer time in almost 50%. With this new optical system RedCLARA can increase bandwidths in an easier way and with lower costs.

The project of establishing this link began in





# The TICAL2013 material is now available

From the conference website you can download the presentations of the panelists (most of them in PDF format) and visit the photo gallery of the event.

Tania Altamirano L.

TICAL2013 took place on July 8 and 9, 2013 at the Convention Center of Cartagena de Indias (CCCI) "Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala", with the participation of over 300 people related to the field of Information and Communications Technologies in Higher education institutions in Latin America.

The program included parallel sessions, plenary sessions, panel discussions and workshops on Governance, Infrastructure, National Networks, Collaboration and Management Systems with the participation of the distinguished panelists: Mauro Cesar Bernardes, Head of the technology division of the Electronic Computer Center (ECC), University of São Paulo (Brazil), Luis Enrique

Arango, Rector of the Technological University of Pereira, and director of the State University System of Colombia - SUE (Colombia), Tomas Jimenez, Garcia, Executive Secretary of the Technology Sector of the Conference of Directors of the Spanish Universities (Spain), and Shelton Waggener, Senior Vice President of Internet2 (United States of America).

- Visit the photo gallery of TICAL 2013 here: <http://www.redclara.net/bancotical2013>
- Download the presentations of TICAL 2013 here: [http://tical\\_2013.redclara.net/es/presentaciones.html](http://tical_2013.redclara.net/es/presentaciones.html)

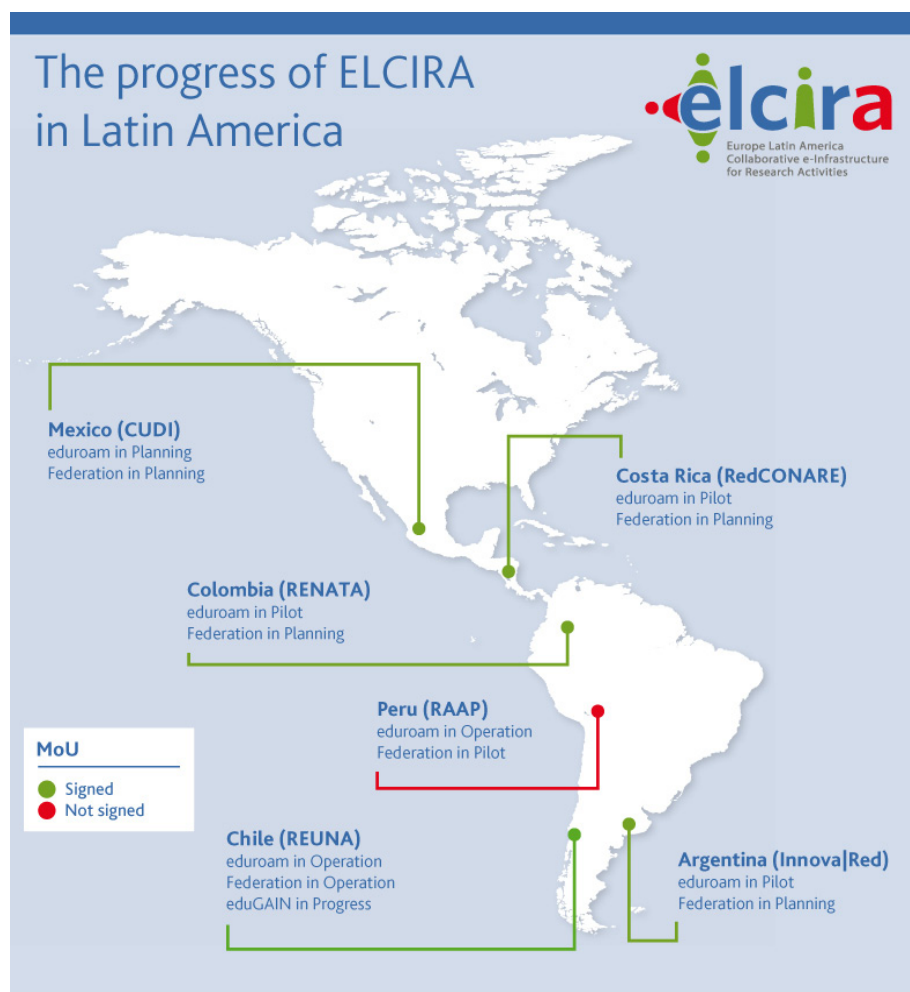




# Follow the progress of ELCIRA in Latin America

On the project Website you can download a map in PDF format that shows the state of the work developed on topics such as Identity Federations and the deployment of eduroam in the region.

Tania Altamirano L.



ELCIRA The project aims to coordinate a series of collaboration tools and services that are being developed in Europe and Latin America to provide an interoperability framework to facilitate the work of the research groups in Europe and

Latin America and promote collaboration in joint research projects.

The map is available for download on the project website: [www.elcira.eu](http://www.elcira.eu).

# CUDI invites you to surf in its new portal

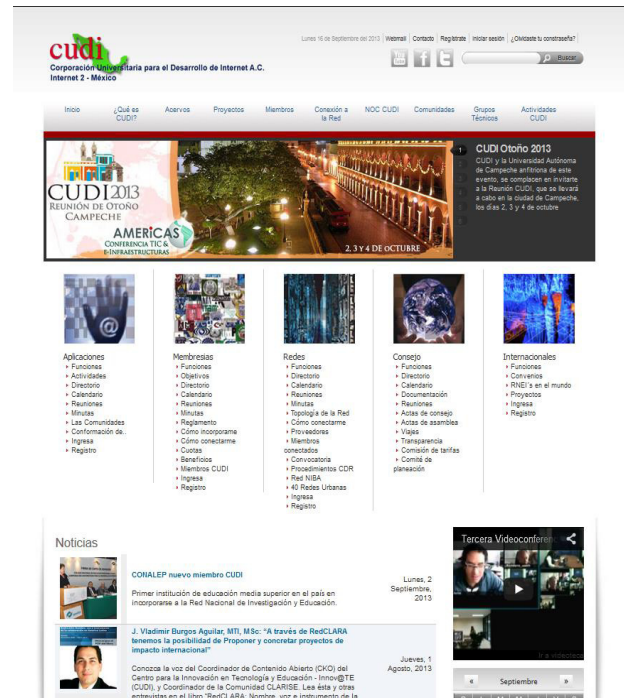
Through <http://www.cudi.edu.mx/>, users have access to information about the activities of the National Research and Education Network in Mexico and its member institutions. The portal is a window into the activities of the international networks in which the Mexican NREN seeks recognition and participation of its members, in order to promote the development and promotion of applications and services, and disseminate relevant information about the work of the National Research and Education Networks.

Martha Ávila, CUDI.

RedCUDI, invites you to participate in its community through the collaboration and learning spaces. As user of the CUDI platform and member of the communities and technical groups, you will have your own space called "Mi Sitio" (My Site), where you can store and share files with other users, organize your agenda, schedules, describe your profile and organize collaborative spaces of your interest.

How to participate in the Communities and Technical Groups of CUDI

1. Register in the CUDI Platform: <http://virtual.cudi.edu.mx>
2. Enter in the CUDI Platform: <http://virtual.cudi.edu.mx>
3. Select the Tool "Pertenenca" (left sidebar)
4. Click on "Otros sitios CUDI" (upper Legend)
5. Identify the Community and / or Technical Group of interest
6. Click on "Pertener" (left sidebar)
7. Select "Inicio" from the toolbar (left sidebar)



8. Click on the tab of the Community or Technical Group of interest (central upper side next to "Mi Sitio")



Martha Ávila, commissioned of the CUDI Communities' Platform:

## "VC Espresso is an essential service in the implementation and development of CUDI's platform"

Martha Avila is in charge of the space created by CUDI to facilitate its communities work, she worked together with RedCLARA's software engineering team in order of bring VC Espresso to CUDI's platform. In this interview we talk with Martha about this experience.

María José López Pourailly



Martha Ávila

How does the CUDI platform for communities and technical groups operates?

CUDI's platform it is formed by the collaboration and learning spaces created for the Communities and Technical Groups of CUDI, it allows users to interact in a flexible and friendly way and it seeks to foster the active participation of its members.

The users of CUDI's platform have their own space called My Site, in that space they can store and share files with other users, organize their schedules, describe their profile, and make of their own the collaborative spaces for communities and of technical interest groups.

What kind of interaction levels has the platform?

The project's goal is to be the environment of collaboration, learning and research , of the National Research and Education Network in Mexico, generating:

- Participation and sharing of scientific knowledge.
- Identification and recognition among academics and researchers.

- Participation and collaboration among members of CUDI's partner institutions.
- The formation of groups of study and discussion born within the collaborative spaces.
- Publication and dissemination of research articles and/or research projects through their sites.
- The contribution of contents and ideas within the community and / or technical groups.
- The dissemination of information about projects that are under development over CUDI's network.
- The dissemination of announcements and events generated by CUDI's technical groups and communities.

How did the idea of strengthening CUDI's communities work (its platform) with the RedCLARA's VC Espresso system arouse?

VC Espresso is an essential service for the implementation and development of CUDI's platform; it is the tool through which we can achieve the interaction between those researchers, academics and students that are interested in the issues treated by the communities and technical groups .

We found that through VC Espresso we have a standardized platform regardless of the brand of the connected equipment.

In September 27, 2010, in the context of the RedCLARA Meeting held in Managua (Nicaragua), for the first time CUDI introduced the project of its platform as a collaboration site to publish the information of the NRENs that were part of the LA Public Relations Network. We were seeking to integrate tools such as:

- Videoconference
- Electronic whiteboard
- Desktop sharing
- Chat

VC Espresso is now an integral part of the

CUDI's Platform because it contains all these elements .



Rafael Morales, Universidad de Guadalajara

What kind of work was carried out with RedCLARA to strengthen this platform? Did you have the need of tailoring VC Espresso to your needs?

For the integration of VC Espresso we had the support of Carlos González, from RedCLARA, and of Rafael Morales, University of Guadalajara. Through CUDI's Platform - developed in Sakai CLE – it was achieved the implementation of the Meetings service (we call this "Virtual rooms" in the collaborative spaces), thus integrating both systems by means of the trusted exchange of data between them , preventing users of CUDI's Platform to sign themselves twice.

Which do you consider is the contribution of VC Espresso to CUDI's communities and technical groups?

It is a tool for the collaborative work that is carried out by our coordinators and allows to



comment and modify documents in real time, thus breaking the barrier of physical distance, as CUDI members are distributed throughout the country it allows instant communication via audio and video.

How do you evaluate the work done together with RedCLARA for strengthening CUDI's communities?

RedCLARA's support was key for the implementation of VC Espresso, the availability and expertise of the technical support facilitated and streamlined the integration of the tool to the collaborative spaces .

How was the feedback received from community members regarding VC CUDI Espresso?

The coordinators and researchers who have used the service have been satisfied Espresso VC and continue to use the service.

Would you recommend the use of this tool by other NREN?

Amplify.

Does CUDI has plans to integrate another RedCLARA tool to its platform?

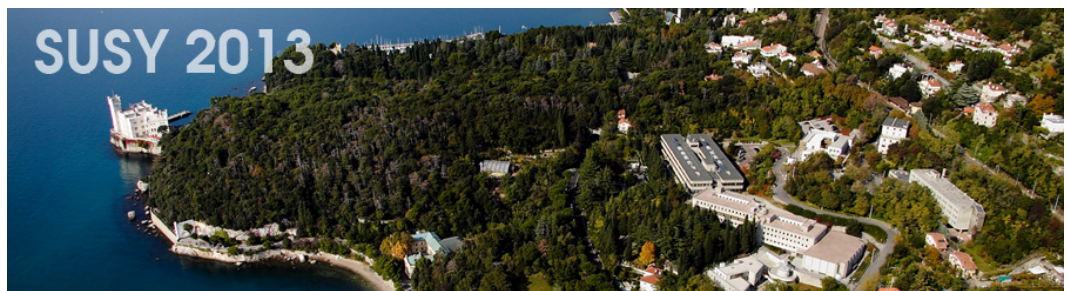
In CUDI we are planning to implement the Big Files Transfer service, generating collaborative spaces accounts .



# RedCLARA transmitted live and direct the plenary sessions of the SUSY 2013 Conference

On August 26 to 31, 2013 in Trieste, Italy, took place the 21st International Conference on Supersymmetry and Unification of Fundamental Interactions, SUSY 2013.

Tania Altamirano L.



The extensive program included 30 plenary sessions that thanks to a joint effort between the ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics), RedCLARA and the national network of Italy, GAAR, was possible to follow live and direct through the RedCLARA portal.

In addition, each of these sessions was recorded and published as reference material here: [http://susy2013.ictp.it/streaming\\_archive.html](http://susy2013.ictp.it/streaming_archive.html)

More information about SUSY 2013: <http://susy2013.ictp.it/>

# EU Prize for Women Innovators

After a successful first edition in 2011, the European Commission has launched the second edition of the EU Prize for Women Innovators to reward three women who have achieved outstanding innovations and brought them to market.

The contest is open until 15 October 2013, 5:00 pm (Brussels time) to all women who have founded or co-founded their company and who have at some point of their careers benefitted from the EU's research framework programmes or the Competitiveness and Innovation framework programme.

The first prize is EUR 100.000, second prize EUR 50.000 and the third prize EUR 25.000.

An independent panel of judges from business and academia will examine and select the three winners who will be announced in spring 2014.

For more information please visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index\\_en.cfm?section=women-innovators&pg=home](http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=women-innovators&pg=home)



# Trying to build access to advanced computing capabilities

SCALAC, the Advanced Computing Service for Latin America and the Caribbean, is an initiative that has been long-awaited by users of High Performance Computing in the region. We talk about it with one of its leaders: Herbert Hoeger, PhD in Computer Science and active promoter of the e- Science and the computational grids in the region, who from its academic position in the Universidad de Los Andes (Mérida, Venezuela) participated in GISELA, EELA and EELA-2 initiatives.

María José López Pourailly

March 1, 2013, Bucaramanga, Colombia: representatives of five Latin-American National Research and Education Networks, RedCLARA and various universities and research centers of Latin America and Spain signed the Declaration of Bucaramanga, with the intention of continuing collaborating in the construction of advanced computing services and of creating an Advanced Computing Service for Latin America and the Caribbean (named SCALAC). August 28 to October 28, 2013: SCALAC gathers 10 institutions of Spain and Latin America in order to provide resources of High Performance Computing (HPC) through a call for projects, applications and developments generated by researchers across the region.

Along with the experience gained in the development of collaborative projects for the development of computational grids and e-Science, as EELA, EELA-2 and GISELA, and the observation of projects devoted to the integration of supercomputers, databases and tools of high cost employed in a distributed fashion and based on open systems (such as the U.S. Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment

- XSEDE), the decision to form SCALAC was taken starting from the reflection and the collaborative work carried out by the RedCLARA Transition Team (CLARA-TT) that, created in the framework of GISELA, was searching for the sustainability of advanced computer services for Latin America.

One of the researchers that has deeply worked on the subject is Herbert Hoeger, involved from the beginning of the EELA project in the development of e- Science in Latin America, we talked with him about SCALAC.

## What is your role within SCALAC?

I am collaborating on building SCALAC community, which means: motivating different data centers in Latin America to work together in order to provide an advanced computing service to the researchers of the region. These actions result in a coordination / organization of meetings, dissemination and monitoring of agreements and especially in a permanent collection of information, identifying projects and players who can join in the realization of this idea of collaboration to strengthen the capacities of our researchers.

Is SCALAC a formal group or a project that is looking to become as such?

SCALAC was officially launched in Bucaramanga, Colombia, in March 2013, with the support of RedCLARA. It is the continuation of a major effort that was built through cooperation projects with the European Commission. Among these important projects we can mention EELA (Enabling Grids for e-Science in Europe and Latin America), EELA2 (E- science grid facility for Europe and Latin America), GISELA (Grid Initiatives for e- Science virtual communities in Europe and Latin America) and now CHAIN (Co -ordination & Harmonisation of Advanced e- Infrastructures) and CHAIN REDS (Coordination & Harmonisation of Advanced e-Infrastructures for Research and Education Data Sharing). As a commitment to promote this idea, the SCALAC initiative has the backing of the academic networks of Argentina (InnovaRed), Colombia (RENATA), Costa Rica (RedCONARE), Ecuador (CEDIA) and Mexico (CUDI). Centers of Brazil (SiNaPAD) and Spain (BSC , CETA-CIEMAT and CIEMAT) are also involved in SCALAC.

What is the main objective of SCALAC?

It is the integration of a regional community of researchers and technologists who combine their skills to provide advanced computing services to the region and the rest of the world .

Groups of researchers and technologists from each country offer their time, expertise, computing resources, as well as the telecommunications network infrastructure in order to achieve this purpose.

SCALAC services are based on a virtual network of resource centers established and distributed in the region for the development of e- Science projects . Among the services that SCALAC aims to build is the access to advanced computing capabilities such as grid computing, cloud computing, scalable supercomputing architectures, remote scientific visualization, data repositories, among others.



What is the importance of SCALAC for Latin America and the Caribbean and how it relates to the experiences of EELA, EELA2 and GISELA?

SCALAC is the continuation of these projects and inherited the technical and organizational structure of GISELA. SCALAC seeks to integrate computational and human resources for researchers in Latin America to access a wider range of resources, applications and locally existing knowledge, allowing them to be more productive and to address problems of regional impact.

How will be SCALAC financed?

One of the challenges, if not the main one we have, is sustainability. On one hand there is an initial support commitment signed by five Latin American academic networks (CEDIA, CUDI,

InnovaRed, RedCONARE and RENATA) and on the other, we are developing a cost study to compensate the participation of the resource centers. Though there's a lot of initial enthusiasm, and we have the selfless voluntary participation of these supercomputing centers, we will ensure sustainability only when we build mechanisms through which the benefited researchers start covering operating costs of the service providers centers. In our region there are no regional financial institutions that can support, even partially, the start of a project like this. So we have to be very creative to ensure the sustainability of the service.

What is the importance of RedCLARA's participation in SCALAC?

RedCLARA plays a double role. The first and most important is the one of the regional integration through a dedicated high-speed network . That is, the assurance that the services available at a computer center in Argentina, can be used by a research group in Costa Rica. This enables that grid type ubiquitous computing services can be provided by several geographically distributed centers. The second role refers to the availability of very broad bandwidths that allow to transmit large volumes of data and perform data visualization sessions remotely.

Could you please refer to the call to provide resources of High Performance Computing (HPC)?

SCALAC, with the support of computer centers BSC, CEDIA, CeNAT, CETA -CIEMAT, CIEMAT, SC3UIS and SINAPAD launched a call to provide resources for High Performance Computing to researchers within the region. During CLCAR

(Latin American Conference on High Performance Computing) 2013 in San Jose, Costa Rica, it was decided that since this is the first call, it must be carried out only by invitation, so it is not an open call; the SCALAC members will look after research groups that will be invited to participate in the call with the objective of benefiting them with the resources offered and those groups will also help us to test and validate the different facilities available. The observations of these researchers will be important to make the necessary adjustments to minimize possible inconvenience in future calls.

What are the steps that SCALAC will follow within the course of its first year?

We will work in order to gain reliability, popularity and sustainability.

We must continue with the integration of resources from different institutions and ensure that the service is reliable. The service works and that there is support / support for researchers to run their flaws .

We are focusing in the massive use of the e-Infrastructure. This results in applications adapted to the integrated infrastructures and helps to foster the different Science Gateway. The Science Gateway are portals that allow researchers to access computing resources and available applications, hiding the complexities of dealing directly with the infrastructure, making the resources and applications significantly easier to use. This has the potential to attract those reluctant users to invest in learning the particular intricacies of the required resources.

We must find funds for the centers integrated

in SCALAC. We must promote the participation in projects financed by local and international organizations: COLCIENCIAS, CONACYT, CONICYT, World Bank, United Nations, NSF, and calls as CyTED of those of the European Commission such as Horizon 20/20 and FRIDA, for example .

More information about SCALAC in:  
<https://comunidades.redclara.net/wiki/scalac>

# Agenda 2013

## OCTOBER

2 - 4 | Autumn CUDI's

MeetingCampeche, Mexico

[http://www.cudi.edu.mx/otono\\_2013/](http://www.cudi.edu.mx/otono_2013/)

9 - 11 | eChallenges e-2013

Dublin, Ireland

<http://www.echallenges.org/e2013/>

14 - 18 | II International ARCU-RED Seminar

Through videoconference

<http://www.renata.edu.co/index.php/renata-en-vivo/5435-ii-seminario-internacional-arcu-red.html>

15 - 18 | EDUCAUSE 2013

California, USA

<http://www.educause.edu/annual-conference>

21 - 25 | LACLO 2013, Eighth Latin-American Conference of Learning Objects and Technologies

Valdivia, Chile

<http://www.laclo.org/laclo2013>

## NOVEMBER

6 - 8 | ICT 2013

Vilnius, Lithuania

<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/ict-2013>

17 - 22 | SC13 | Supercomputing

Denver, Colorado, USA

<http://sc13.supercomputing.org/>

13 | Workshop eI4Africa / CHAIN-REDS

Kigali, Rwanda

<http://ei4africa.eu/2013/08/20/joint-ei4africa-chain-reds-workshop/>

## DECEMBER

3-6 | International Conference on Scientific Cooperation 2013

Paphos, Cyprus

<http://cyprusconferences.org/csc2013/index.php>



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