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Testimonies of best practices



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Abstract: This document presents the recordings of five virtual days of three academic and research communities which successful collaborative work is considered as a testimony of the best practices using RedCLARA E-infrastructure.



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For more information on ELCIRA, its partners and contributors please see <http://elcira.redclara.net> (this website will be available in October 1st 2012).

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DELIVERABLE ROUTE

	Name	Member/Activity	Date	Responsible
From	Emilia Serafín	RedCLARA/Communities	October 28, 2013	RedCLARA
Revised by	Luis Núñez	RedCLARA/ARM	October 28, 2013	RedCLARA
Aproved by	Florencio Utreras	RedCLARA/CEO		RedCLARA



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1.- INTRODUCTION

E-Research is changing practices and dynamics in research and one of its main challenges is the conformation of sustainable Virtual Research Communities (VRC). The VRC's life cycle is relatively recent concept associated with the emergence of geographically distributed groups having interdisciplinary, non-hierarchical organizations, based on the availability of high-speed networks, broadband access and advanced virtual collaborative tools. The future and the sustainability of the National Research and Education Networks are intimately related to sustainability of the VRSSs.

In Latin America (LA), starting with ALICE2 project¹, and more recently with ELCIRA² project, there has been important initiatives in order to build and disseminate advanced network tools to promote collaboration over the e-infrastructure. The RedCLARA collaborative portal is one of the main tools oriented to foster this virtual collaboration. The idea is that emerging VRCs can find their way to work collectively and to organize themselves around our portal and the associated services. It is critical to understand the new collaboration practices and thus sharing the cross-communities experiences become vital. To highlight the performance of the most successful VRCs in our region, RedCLARA has developed series of cases of study³ where the experiences, procedures and the organizations strategies are disseminated through the RedCLARA portal.

This document has been developed by the ELCIRA Work Package 6 (Extending and Strengthening the Collaboration Platform), which is in charge of improving the collaboration between the researches of Latin America and Europe. This work package promotes the use of the access to information, is on charge of the dissemination of funding opportunities, encourage the use of the electronic collaboration tools and convince the users to take advantage of the advanced network.

This deliverable reports the practice of three selected communities that have improved a successful collaborative dynamic and also have host, since their constitution, advanced network services as part of the regular tools to spread and build knowledge.

¹ Latin America Interconnected with Europe 2 <http://alice2.redclara.net>

² Europe Latin America Collaborative e-Infrastructure for Research Activities <http://elcira.redclara.net>

³ http://www.redclara.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=143&Itemid=528&lang=en



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2.- VIRTUAL DAYS: AN EASY WAY TO COLLABORATE, SHARE AND BUILD KNOWLEDGE

The Virtual Days (VD) are an initiative undertaken from RedCLARA in order to bring researchers together so they can see the potential of advanced e-infrastructure. These VD are organized every month promoting varied topics ranging from infrastructure to health and digital communication. On a “standard” Virtual Day, the VRC responsible of the videoconference presents a selected topic inviting at least three specialists from different institutions and countries. The attendance and participation at the activity depends from the topic and the presenters, but most of the times a VD welcomes from five to ten videoconference room and a minimum of fifty participants following the activity via streaming. In general, the VD brings together specialists, researches, teachers, students and professionals from all over Latin America and links them with their partners in Europe and North America.

For this deliverable we have chosen five Virtual Days of three communities that have shown a special growth since they have been constituted. These communities are part of the most successful communities for which RedCLARA is preparing the Report on Case Studies where the experiences, procedures and the organizations strategies of these communities will be shared. These three communities are:

1. SCALAC - Advance Computer Service for Latin America and the Caribbean
2. LA REFERENCIA: Latin America network of national systems of institutional repositories
3. RED PARA CRECER: Spreading information about autism and understanding the autistic condition.

Through the Virtual Days these communities have found a way to spread their practice and reinforced their relations within their members. Additionally, this kind of activities are a perfect example for people working together in an international network, sharing information and learning from each other. Therefore, we consider the videoconferences presented in this document as testimonies of best practices.

By sharing and disseminating these successful practices with other regional communities, RedCLARA aims to encourage the Virtual Research Communities to assume ownership of technologies and services provided by the advanced network accessible all over Latin America.



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3.- SHOWING WHAT THEY DO: TESTIMONIES OF BEST PRACTICES FROM SELECTED COMMUNITIES

As we have explained, the videoconferences organized by the academic communities and presented to the public in a “Virtual Day format”, can be considered as a testimony of a good practice of the work developed by those communities. In this section we present five Virtual Days aimed by three of the most successful communities. These Virtual Days testifies about the hard job developed within the community and the quality of the collaboration between their members and partners.

A. SCALAC COMMUNITY

Community's name

SCALAC: Advance Computer Service for Latin America and the Caribbean

Who they are and what they do

The Advanced Computing Service for Latin America and the Caribbean - SCALAC, is an initiative that responds to the needs of the users of High Performance Computing in the region. SCALAC, launched in March 2013, with the support of RedCLARA, is the continuation of a major effort that was built through cooperation projects with the European Commission, like GISELA (Grid Initiatives for e-Science virtual communities in Europe and Latin America), CHAIN (Co-ordination & Harmonisation of Advanced e- Infrastructures) and CHAIN REDS (Coordination & Harmonisation of Advanced e- Infrastructures for Research and Education Data Sharing).

The main objective of SCALAC 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. SCALAC is building the services of access to advanced computing capabilities such as grid computing, cloud computing, scalable supercomputing architectures, remote scientific visualization, data repositories, among others.

This academic and research community is constituted by groups of researchers and technologists from different countries, offering their time, expertise, computing resources, as well as the telecommunications network infrastructure. Additionally this community has the backing of the academic networks of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico. SCALAC is also support by the SiNaPad Centre (Brazil), the BSC Centre and CETA-CIEMAT Centre (both from Spain).



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SCALAC Virtual Day as testimony of best practice

On June 19th 2013, ELCIRA, CHAIN REDS, TAGPMA and TERENA held the Identity Federations Virtual Day. SCALAC was represented on this team by CHAINREDS, who as we said, is the “project predecessor” of SACALAC initiative.

This videoconference allows the participants to discussed about the identity management that even if it is a complex process, enables users access to specialized resources and academic services of Universities and Research Centres in an easy but secure manner.

As presenters of this conference participated Derek Simmel and Jim Basney speaking about their experience in two of the majors Supercomputing Centre in United States. David Kelsey (United Kingdom) and Roberto Barbera (Italy) shared the lessons learnt during the process of getting transnational federations that allow access to highly specialized resources from all the corners of Europe. And finally, Leandro Guimarães (Brazil) and Alejandro Lara (Chile) presented the ELCIRA’s objective to develop a federation in Latin America.

This Federation Virtual Day connected twelve videoconference rooms from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, USA, Canada, Portugal, Italy, and UK. It welcomes also more than 60 participants via the streaming transmission.

B. LA REFERENCIA COMMUNITY

Community's name

LA REFERENCIA: The Latin American Federated Network of Scientific Documentation Repositories

Who they are and what they do

The Latin American Federated Network of Scientific Documentation Repositories - LA Referencia was officially constituted on December 2012. It is a project funded by the Fund of Regional Public Goods of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as part of the effort to consolidate the regional public asset.

The main purpose of LA Referencia is to build a Latin American collector of scientific production for storing, sharing and disseminate the scientific production of Latin America. The first steps of La Referencia are be done by the incorporation of the national nodes of the nine Latin American countries that are members of this



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project. Through this initiative coordinated by RedCLARA, the Latin American region joins the world effort to organise the joint work on Open Access.

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

La Referencia Virtual Day as testimony of best practice

On May 22nd 2013 Red CLARA gave the Virtual Day “Towards the Universality of Open Access” under the format of a virtual videoconference (webinar). RedCLARA, COAR, CHAIN REDS and La Referencia were involved in the organization of this activity. This webinar, held in Spanish language, was a totally success with the attendance of 186 participants from over 16 countries (Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Mexico, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala, El Salvador, Venezuela, Brazil, Costa Rica and Bolivia).

The speakers were Carmen Gloria Labbé, Director of Innovation and Development, Red CLARA, Eloy Rodrigues, University of Minho, Portugal and Chair of COAR Working Group on Repository Interoperability, Malgorzata Lisowska, LA Referencia Project Manager, Colombia, and Luis Nuñez, CHAIN REDS Manager, Venezuela.

The purpose of this virtual workshop was to provide a general overview of the requirements for interoperability of Open Access Repositories, to identify key issues and challenges to be addressed and to present examples of how interoperability between repositories enables the creation of value-added services for scientists so that they find new ways to tackle with major research challenges facing society in our time.

C. RED PARA CRECER COMMUNITY

Community's name

RED PARA CRECER: Spreading information about autism and understanding the autistic condition.

Who they are and what they do

This community came up in April 2011, with the aim to promote activities in order to develop opportunities for people with autistic condition. One of the main objectives of this community is to raise the social awareness of the importance of the diversity



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of autism spectrum and the necessity of their social inclusion, regardless of any philosophical, legal or regulatory framework.

RedParaCreceer promotes the principle of learning about the Autism condition in order to develop a more equal society.

RedParaCreceer Virtual Day as testimony of best practice

The series of "Virtual Days with Autism" is an international effort having a format of academic forums or highly interactive conversations about the autistic condition among experts and the main public. The simultaneity and interactivity are two characteristics of the Autism Virtual Days that provide special value to the conferences increasing the quality and relevance of the topics promoted by this community.

On the three Virtual Days given until today, we count more than 40 virtual rooms connected to the videoconference and an attendance of over 200 participants. These numbers can trust the intention of the RedParaCreceer community to assist in building communication platforms for professionals and academic staff working in Autism in different Latin American countries, facilitate contact with Spanish speakers in Autism advancing knowledge and encouraging linkages and exchange between area institutions.

The conferences has involved presentations of eight active North and Latin American and Europe actors in the field as Dr. José Gregorio Silva, Founder of RedParaCreceer, the audiologist Francisco Javier Paredes, Coordinator of the Evaluation Diagnosis Team of the Colombian League of Autism, Dr. Alicia Marco and Dr. Daniel Comin, both Executive Directors of two important Autism Organizations in Valencia, Spain (Psicotrade and Autismo Diario), and Professor Nestor Lopez from the University of Michigan, among others.

Even if the three virtual days organized by RedParaCreceer (1. The common and the different aspects in the autism-spectrum, 2. Autism: Early diagnosis and lifelong condition, 3. What we learned about Asperger Syndrome) have had different approaches to the autism condition, these activities are underpinned by the guiding principle of think over about what is Autism, how should we understand it, is it for life and what is the basic information that everyone in society should know about this condition. Also, through these videoconferences RedParaCreceer has encouraged and spread the understanding of people with autistic condition are not sick, instead they are members of a social group that shares a condition of multifactorial origins and they can be helped to reach a good quality of life.



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4.- APPENDIXES

APPENDIX 1: MATERIAL AND RECORDING OF SCALAC VIRTUAL DAYS

Identity Federations Virtual Day
June 19th 2013.

Presenter	Subject	Institution / Country	Video
David Kelsey	Federated Identity Management for Research Communities (FIM4R)	STFC-RAL, United Kingdom	https://www.redclara.net/index.php?option=com_community&view=videos&task=video&userid=351&videoid=220&Itemid=377&lang=es
Roberto Barbera	Federated access to e-Infrastructures	University of Catania, INFN and CHAINREDS, Italy	https://www.redclara.net/index.php?option=com_community&view=videos&task=video&userid=351&videoid=221&Itemid=377&lang=es
Jim Basney	InCommon & CILogon: Federated Identities Supporting Science	National Centre for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), University of Illinois, USA	https://www.redclara.net/index.php?option=com_community&view=videos&task=video&userid=351&videoid=222&Itemid=377&lang=es
Derek Simmel	XSEDE Authentication Infrastructure	Pittsburgh Supercomputing Centre, USA	https://www.redclara.net/index.php?option=com_community&view=videos&task=video&userid=351&videoid=223&Itemid=377&lang=es
Leandro Guimarães	ELCIRA experience and Latin America Identity Federations	RNP and ELCIRA Project, Brazil	https://www.redclara.net/index.php?option=com_community&view=videos&task=video&userid=351&videoid=224&Itemid=377&lang=es
Alejandro Lara	COFRe – Comunidad Federada	REUNA, Chile	https://www.redclara.net/index.php?option=com_community&view=videos&task=video&userid=351&videoid=225&Itemid=377&lang=es

APPENDIX 2: MATERIAL AND RECORDING OF LA REFERENCIA VIRTUAL DAYS

Towards the Universality of Open Access
May 22nd 2013.

Presenter	Subject	Institution / Country	Video
Eloy Rodrigues	Interoperability, the key to reaching the true value of open access to science	COAR and University of Minho, Portugal.	http://www.instantpresenter.com/eifl/EA55DB84864F
Malgorzata Lisowska	LA REFERENCIA: scientific production in an Latin America network	LA Referencia Project, Colombia	
Luis Nuñez	Harmonizing academic cooperation in the world	CLARA – CHAIN REDS, Venezuela.	



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APPENDIX 3: MATERIAL AND RECORDING OF RED PARA CRECER VIRTUAL DAYS

1st Virtual Day of Autism

The common and the different aspects in the autism-spectrum
February 27th 2013.

Presenter	Subject	Institution / Country	Video
Francisco Javier Paredes	The common and the different in the autism-spectrum	Universidad Nacional, Colombia	http://www.redclara.net/index.php?option=com_community&view=videos&task=video&userid=351&videoid=158&Itemid=704&lang=es
José Gregorio Silva	Autistic Spectrum Disorders	Universidad Central, Venezuela	

2nd Virtual Day of Autism

Autism: Early diagnosis and lifelong condition
May 29th 2013.

Presenter	Subject	Institution / Country	Video
Alicia Marco	Early detection of autism.	Psicotrade, Spain.	https://www.redclara.net/index.php?option=com_community&view=videos&task=video&userid=351&videoid=211&Itemid=377&lang=es
Daniel Comin	Autism: A long life condition?	Autismo Diario, Spain.	https://www.redclara.net/index.php?option=com_community&view=videos&task=video&userid=351&videoid=212&Itemid=377&lang=es
Mario Vázquez	Autism, early detection and intervention.	Instituto de Educación de Aguascalientes, Mexico.	https://www.redclara.net/index.php?option=com_community&view=videos&task=video&userid=351&videoid=213&Itemid=377&lang=es

Con formato: Español (España, internacional)

3rd Virtual Day of Autism

What we learned about Asperger Syndrome
September 25th 2013.

Presenter	Subject	Institution / Country	Video
Nestor López Durán	A review of the Autism and Asperger's in the DSM V	University of Michigan, USA	http://www.redclara.net/index.php?option=com_community&view=videos&task=video&userid=351&videoid=243&Itemid=377&lang=es
Ernesto Reaño	What do people with Asperger find difficult	EITA, Peru	
Isabelle Ibacache	Paying attention to the development of people with Asperger's	AMASPERGER, Chile	



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