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At the Horizon 2020 booth, Viktoria Bodnarova and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

## June 12-13, 2017 eMerge Americas: Journey through Innovation

Under the framework of BILAT USA 4.0, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and EURAX-ESS North America were proud to participate in the year's most awaited conference on innovation. research, and Tech in Miami: eMerge Americas, the "tech event of the Americas" on June 12-13, 2017. More than 13,000 people representing more than 60 countries, over 400 companies, 100 startups, local universities and 150 speakers attended the event at the Miami Beach Convention Center. The tech communities from the countries of Colombia, Israel and Belarus were there, as were companies from around the world. On June 12-13, year eMerge Americas' fourth brought together the Miami tech community, public, private and business leaders to a conference featuring keynote speakers, innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, showcasing the latest technologies, country pavilions, start-up showcase and competition, Government Innovation Summit, an Hackathon, and a Women Innovation and Technology (WIT) Summit. This year's eMerge Americas conference was the first event in the newly refurbished Miami Beach Convention Center. Many "worldclass" keynote speakers took part in the event: Jeb Bush, former Florida Governor and GOP presidential Steve Wozniak, cocandidate: founder of Apple; Armando Perez, aka "PitBull"; Cesar Conde, Chairman of NBCUniversal International **NBCUniversal** Group and Telemundo Enterprises; two-time Emmy Award-winning television host and world's leading personal finance expert and New York Times best selling author Suze Orman; Marcelo Claure, CEO, Sprint; Uri Levine, Co-Founder, Waze; Adriana Cisnero, CEO; and Gustavo Cisneros, Chairman, Cisneros Group. With a 900-square-foot pavilion,

**eMerge Americas Conference** 

Miami Beach Convention Center

FIU was also at the expo floor stage offering its faculty and students an opportunity to exhibit how they use technology for innovation and

Viktoria Bodnarova **Regional Representative** EURAXESS North America, Washington D.C.



Viktoria Bodnarova is the Regional Representative for EURAXESS North America, responsible for Canada and the US, as of 2013. Her main role inform the community of is to researchers of all scientific domains and nationalities based in North America about the funding and career opportunities the European Research Area (ERA) offers (European, national or regional funding opportunities).

Another important role is the management of the European Scientific Diasporas in North America initiative together with the EU Delegations and EU Member/Associated Countries.

Prior to her position in the US, she was a Project Manager and EURAX-ESS Network Coordinator at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Viktoria holds a Master of Arts degree in International Relations and European Studies from the Metropolitan University in Prague. During her university studies, she participated in two exchange programs at Trent University (UK) and Concordia University (Canada).

- ► For more information on EURAXESS North America, click here
- ► For more information on Horizon 2020, click here



# Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union Journey through Innovation—June 12-13, 2017

BILAT



transformation in the fields of research and entrepreneurship.

Two experts in EU Research and Innovation Funding were at our Europe-Horizon 2020 booth on June 12 and 13: Viktoria Bodnarova, Regional Representative, EURAX-ESS North America; and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director/ Project Manager, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, were able to present funding possibilities for US researchers and company decision makers and answer questions on Horizon 2020, EUR-AXESS, ERC and Marie Sklodowska-Curie Programs, as well as PICASSO-EU-US ICT Collaboration. During two days, Viktoria Bodnarova made four presentations on Horizon 2020 and its EU Funding opportunities to a public audience. Many European consuls general passed by our booth and attended the presentations; France, Italy, Jamaica, Netherlands, Spain, as well as Andrea Glorioso, Counsellor, Digital Economy/Cyber of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States of America; and a Delegation of Belarus diplomats.

Viktoria and Christine were also able to attend all the networking events, and especially eGov, where they met Miami-Dade decision makers, mayors, government officials, European consuls, scientists, and high-tech company' CEOs from the US, Europe, and Latin America. "eGOV brings together government officials, urban planners, and others from North America, Latin America and Europe. They come with a shared goal—to transform their urban communities into smart cities through the power of innovative technology. The Government Innovation Summit provides an ideal platform for public-private partnerships. The possibilities for innovation and collaboration in this field are immeasurable" states eMerge Americas on its webpage.

Viktoria Bodnarova said: "One of the main successes of this conference is the great platform to bring people together and connect them to the Americas, Europe and the rest of the world."

"eMerge Americas, the tech event of the Americas is an action-packed conference-where ideas flow freely and innovation rules. Discover the latest technology trends right on the EXPO floor. Be inspired by global thought leaders. Engage with buyers, entrepreneurs and investors from across the Americas and the rest of the world. With summits, networking events, startup competitions and more, eMerge is where you go to connect. And like every great journey, it will leave you changed."

For more information on the program, click here



From left to right: Viktoria Bodnarova, Dr. Babak Kateb, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, and Manny Medina at the opening reception on June 11, 2017

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The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence would like to thank Manny Medina, founder of eMerge Americas; Melissa Medina, Executive Vice President; Xavier Gonzalez, CEO; and Frances Hassun, Director of International Development & Content at eMerge Americas for giving the Center the opportunity to participate in this wonderful and outstanding conference.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence is looking forward to participating in **next year's conference**, which will take place in Miami on **April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>**, **2018**. Manny Medina

Founder of eMerge Americas

- To view pictures, click on the following links:
  - June 11 Opening reception
  - <u>June 12</u> (Day 1)
  - <u>June 13</u> (Day 2)
- To read Miami Herald press release on eMerge Americas 2017, <u>click here</u>

For more information on eMerge Americas, <u>click here</u>

By Christine. I. Caly-Sanchez



Jeb Bush, Former Florida Governor and GOP presidential candidate



Xavier Gonzalez, CEO, eMerge Americas



From left to right: Hon. Consul of Monaco Tomas Abreu; Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine; Minister of Modernization, Argentina, Andres Ibarra,; Dr. Babak Kateb; and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Francis Suarez, City of Miami Commissioner



At the Horizon 2020 booth, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Hon. Clément Leclerc, Dr. Babak Kateb (left picture) Viktoria Bodnarova, Massimo Spiga, Dr. Babak Kateb, and Andrea Glorioso (right picture)

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Viktoria Bodnarova informing a high tech director on Horizon 2020



Viktoria Bodnarova informing a graduate student



From left to right: Dr. Babak Kateb, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Viktoria Bodnarova, Dr. Mike Heithaus, Dr. Andres Gil



FIU President Mark Rosenberg and Dr. Babak Kateb