environmental and health is presented through a case study involving communities and the population subgroups in developing countries (Marsili, 2007). The interactions between hazardous environmental and occupational exposures affect poverty, which affects local communities and to local and national policy-makers; this allows the identification of specific problems of the Ecuadorian context related to occupational and environmental health issues and addresses the research activities in Ecuador.

The adoption of high scientific standards for epidemiological investigations and robust scientific methodologies represent a guarantee to progress for both the cooperating partner, and the possibility to reach and share an advanced level of knowledge promoting actions aimed to strengthen the local capacity building process.

According to the adopted cooperation strategy and relying on the experience matured within this cooperation framework, we can highlight the following issues:

- International cooperation, relying on a multidisciplinary approach, must be addressed to the environmental health priorities characterizing the local context.
- There is a need to investigate further well-known hazardous exposures affecting population sub-groups in developing countries, accounting for the interconnection between environmental and socio-economic factors, in order to get solutions appropriate to the local context.
- The participative working methodology and the transfer of knowledge at different levels increase the awareness on social and health impact of hazardous exposures in occupational and living environment, and contribute to provide scientific foundations for decision-makers.
- Dissemination activities at scientific and institutional levels may play a major role in order to achieve specific results, e.g. the ban of asbestos.

References
6. Marsili D. Environmental health deprivation impact on poverty that affects local communities and to local and national policy-makers; this allows the identification of specific problems of the Ecuadorian context related to occupational and environmental health issues and addresses the research activities in Ecuador.

Collaboration outcomes