



EU-LAC cooperation through Erasmus+: Opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean

What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-2027. Erasmus+ funds academic mobility and cooperation projects between the 27 EU Member States plus six* other European countries associated to the programme, and countries not associated to the programme who are located all over the world.

Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the common priorities for cooperation policy with partner countries and regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean. Countries from these two regions can join with European partners in a range of mobility and cooperation projects. This factsheet looks at how popular these initiatives have been with the LAC region in the ongoing (2021-2027) and previous (2014-2020) Erasmus+ programmes.

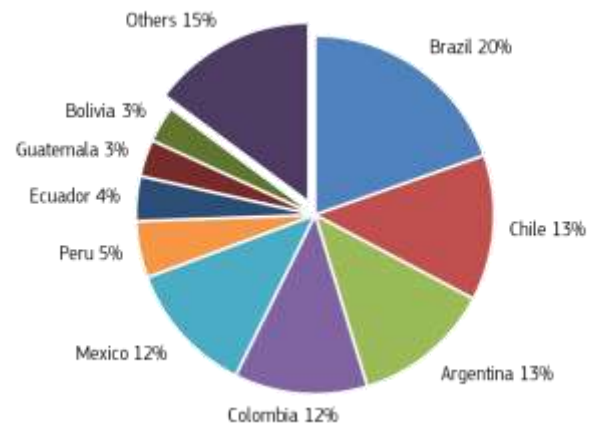
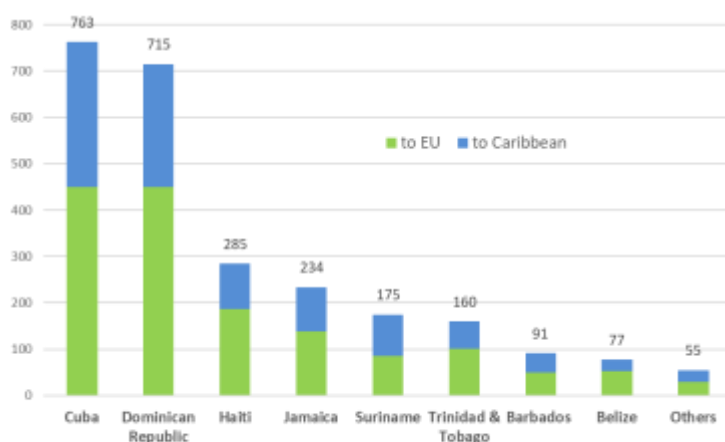
* In 2023 these six countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye.

International Credit Mobility

Since 1987, Erasmus has enabled students to study part of their course in a university in a different European country. With Erasmus+ this type of short-term mobility for students and staff is also possible beyond Europe, allowing students to study at a foreign university for 2-12 months and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. A grant for staff mobility is also possible for 5-60 days. Some projects also offer traineeships.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all the European countries. European institutions make up bilateral partnerships with universities in Latin America or the Caribbean and apply on behalf of their partners. Since 2014, 1 400 projects for bilateral partnerships with Latin America and the Caribbean have organised **mobility for 15 207 students and staff**.

Caribbean – 2 555 people on the move, 2014-2022



Latin America – 12 652 people on the move. Mobility per country 2014-2022

The Freie Universität Berlin manages an international mobility project with countries in Latin America, including the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Under this partnership, three students and four staff will travel to study, teach or train in Germany. Additionally, one researcher and three staff members from Germany will go to Colombia. The cooperation focuses on mobility in the field of political science and supports fields of study such as equity and inclusion.



Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMs) award full-degree scholarships to Master students from around the world covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different European countries. Upon graduation, they are awarded a joint or double degree, or multiple degrees.

Students can apply to these programmes even if the university where they studied is not involved in any of them. They have to look for the available programmes in the EMJM Catalogue and apply directly to the programme coordinator: <https://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-mundus>

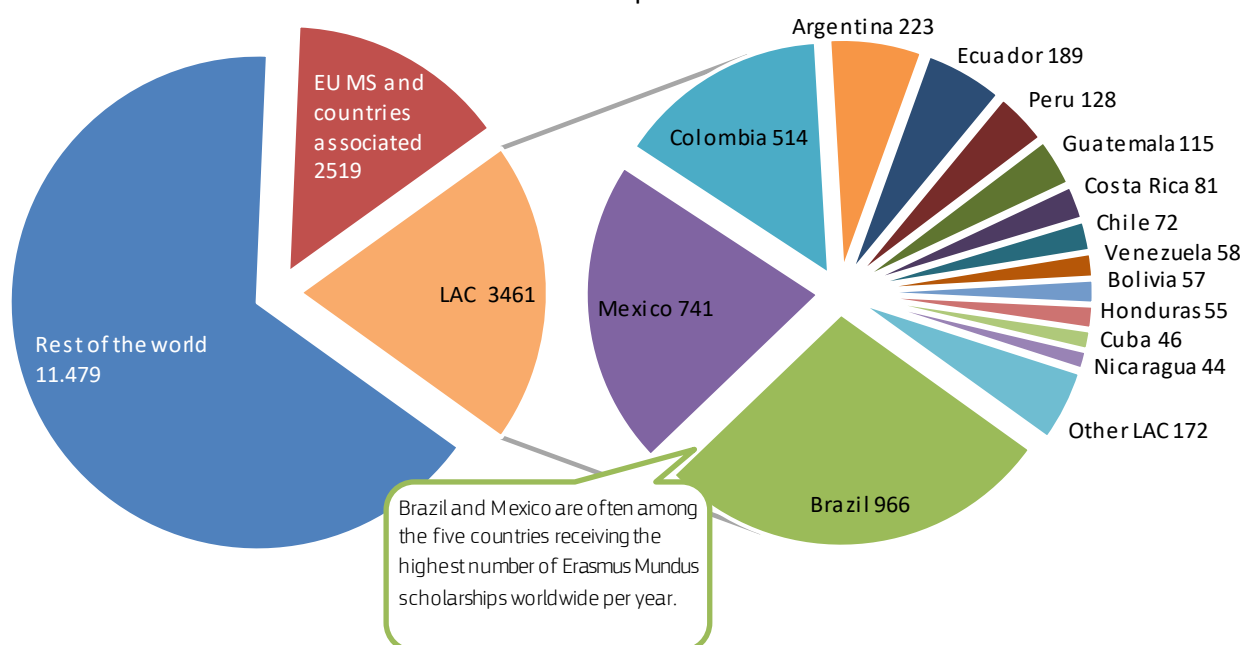
Latin America and Caribbean are both regions for which the EU funds additional scholarships.

Institutions from LAC countries can also deliver these programmes: as applicants setting up the consortia; as full partners who officially award degrees; or as associated partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of capacity – providing lecturers, hosting fieldwork, promoting the course - but do not award the actual joint degree.

Latin American partners

There were 29 cases of universities from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico being involved as full hosting partners in EMJMs selected between 2014 and 2022. In the same period, Latin American and Caribbean organisations have taken part in Erasmus Mundus programmes as associated partners 331 times, representing a wider range of 21 countries, including four Caribbean.

Erasmus Mundus scholarships 2014-2022



EUROAQUAE

This two-year joint master [programme](#) trains future professionals in the water industry with skills and understanding of the use of IT and AI in water management.

The programme's academic and hands-on content is delivered by a global partnership led from France (Université du Côte d'Azur) with partners from Asia and the Americas, including Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro (BR) and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (MX).

Erasmus Mundus and LAC 2014-2022



3 461 scholarships for LAC nationals



360 instances of organisations from LAC countries involved; 29 of them as full partners

IMIM: International Master in Innovative Medicine

[IMIM](#) empowers its students to become the next generation of leaders in translational biomedical research and industry. It brings together three European institutions - the University of Groningen (the Netherlands, coordinator), Heidelberg University (Germany), and Uppsala University (Sweden) and four Latin American Institutions: Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Chile), Universidad de Antioquia (Colombia), and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico). All partners have a particular strength in biomedical sciences and are listed among the top in regional and international rankings. IMIM focuses on translational medical sciences by fostering academic-private sector connections and including extensive Entrepreneurship & Innovation training.

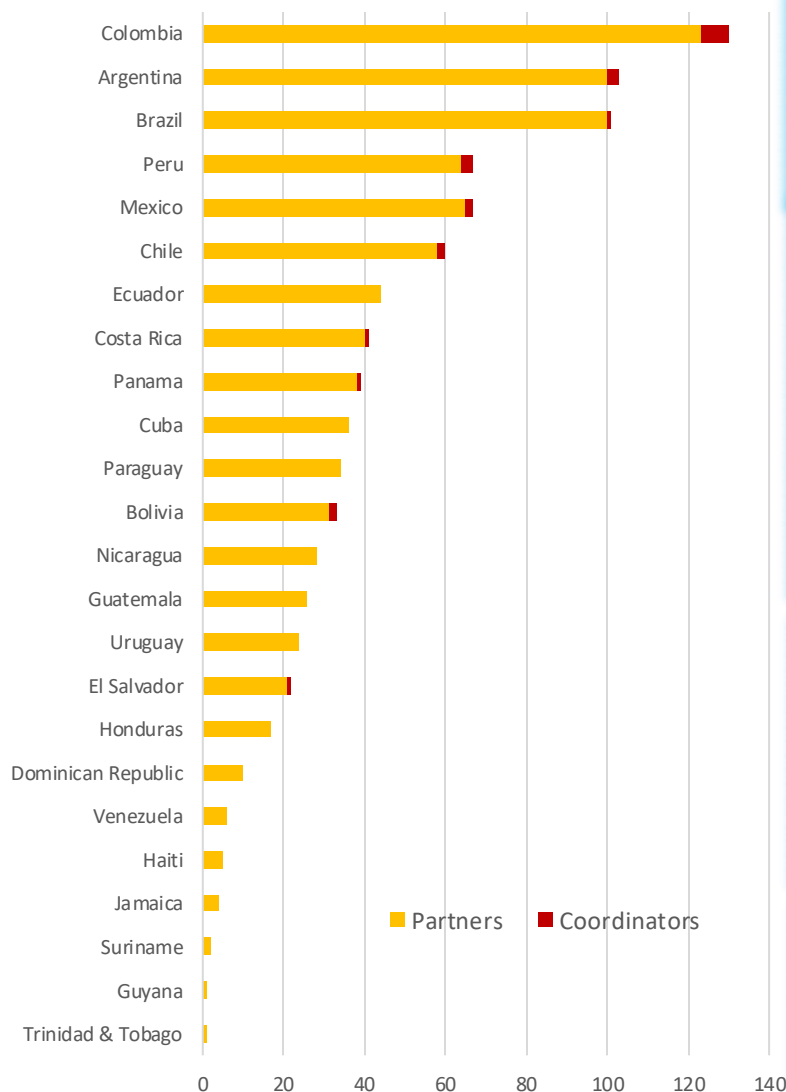
Capacity Building in Higher Education

Capacity-Building projects in Higher Education are 2 to 3 year-long projects implemented by multilateral partnerships of Higher Education institutions from both European and Latin American and Caribbean countries with the aim of modernising higher education institutions and systems in the Partner Countries.

Capacity-Building projects not only promote cooperation between European and LAC regions but they also contribute to curriculum development activities, modernisation of governance and management of Higher Education institutions and systems and strengthening relations between Higher Education and the wider economic and social environment.

So far, there have been 901 instances of participation by institutions from Latin America and the Caribbean in 110 projects for the region, of which five had a Caribbean focus.

Instances of participation in CBHE 2014-2022



Capacity-building projects 2014-2022



110 projects



901 Instances of participation

from LAC countries

Examples of CBHE project

SUS-TER

“Networking Knowledge, Skills and Competencies for an Inclusive and Sustainable Territorial Valorization of Cultural Heritage, Origin products and Biodiversity” (SUS-TER)
SUS-TER [project](#) aim was to modernise the higher education curricula in the partner countries, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico, by developing new courses and methodologies around topics such as heritage and biodiversity in rural areas.

STOREM

“Sustainable Tourism, Optimal Resource and Environmental Management” (STOREM) [project](#) aimed to implement new Master’s curricula in 5 HEIs in Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica in the field of sustainable tourism and environmental management. The new Master and new courses will contribute, not only to improve the quality of higher education and developing new skills in sustainability issues, but also will eventually advance socioeconomic development in LAC region and better equip academics, tourism professionals and administrations to manage the nature environment, to face climate change threats and other risks existing in relation to tourism development.

CODICIS

“Strengthening of capacities for the Recovery and Conservation of Documentary and Bibliographic Heritage in Latin America” (CODICIS).

This [project](#) implemented in Peru, Mexico and Bolivia and coordinated by the Universidad Católica San Pablo (Peru), aims at improving the skills and knowledge to preserve the documentary and bibliographic heritage in these countries.

EMINENT

“Towards the Enhancement and Harmonisation of HEIs Quality Assurance in Haiti in response to National and International developments” (EMINENT), a national [project](#) in Haiti contributed to the development of a culture of quality assurance within the Haitian Higher Education. As a result, the action of this project has reinforced the quality of the Higher Education system and study programme offer in Haiti and increased its attractiveness.

Capacity Building for Vocational Education (VET)

This action is new to the international dimension of Erasmus+ in 2022. It supports multilateral partnerships of organisations active in the field of VET in EU Member States or countries associated to the programme, and those from the LAC region (and three other regions). They aim to support the relevance, accessibility and responsiveness of VET institutions and systems in these regions and

META VET – Moving towards sustainable industry engagement in VET

This [project](#) is focused on VET for the metal and energy sectors in Paraguay and Argentina, bringing organisations from these two countries together with Polish and Spanish partners. The project shares best practice on curricula design, multimedia resources and innovative VET delivery, as well as ways of reaching those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

CLau.DIA. - Antillean Digital Culture: Young artists are trained and promote digital culture in the Caribbean

In this [project](#), training organisations from Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti join up with French and Italian partners to train young artists in digital culture. CLau.DIA. builds a training programme adapted to the Caribbean region, tests and organises training activities and launches events and new projects within an Antillean Digital Culture Network.

countries of the world as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development.

Out of the 58 projects selected worldwide, 7 projects were selected with 25 instances of participation from LAC countries, including one project for the Caribbean region on digital culture.

Capacity Building for Vocational Trainings involving Latin America, 2022



7 projects



25 instances of LAC participation

Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. Since 1989 they have been supporting Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence to promote excellence in teaching and research on the European integration process at higher education level. The programme also supports policy debate with the academic world through networks. The figures refer to the higher education activities opened to third countries, to international networks and to other discontinued types of international projects.

FGV CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON EU-SOUTH AMERICA GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

This [project](#) focuses on the contribution of the EU for fostering a comparative study on Global Governance and related subjects, taking into account the context and specific demands from the Global South. It envisages joint transnational activities and structural links with academic institutions in Brazil and worldwide in order to share knowledge, develop partnership and joint activities on issues of global governance and beyond.

Latin America and Caribbean

Out of a total of 2 467 successful applications to Jean Monnet between 2014 and 2022, 50 are **Latin American projects managed by institutions from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador and Mexico**. There have been **17 JM Chairs, 3 Centres of Excellence, 19 JM Modules, 5 JM Projects, 1 JM-supported Institution and 5 JM Network coordinators**.

OBSERVING DEMOCRACY: The Impact of EU Election Assistance and Observation on the Quality of Democracy

This [JM Chair](#) aims at integrating the EU instruments of election assistance and election observation onto high-level research and teaching activities. It relies on 4 axes: comparative impact of EU election observation missions on the quality of democracy worldwide; high-quality teaching activities; improving democratic practices and electoral processes in Ecuador; and refinement of the existing EU instruments of election assistance and observation.

More information:

Erasmus+ website: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>

Erasmus+ projects & results: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects>

Erasmus+ funding opportunities: https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants_en

Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association: www.em-a.eu

Study in Europe: <https://education.ec.europa.eu/study-in-europe/>