

EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Digital Alliance

September 2024



European Union and Latin America & Caribbean together for an Inclusive, Sustainable, Secure and Human-centric Digital Transformation

The European Union and many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean share a common understanding that an inclusive digital transformation is the key to sustainable development and social cohesion.

The EU-LAC Digital Alliance represents the political determination of the participating countries and the EU to collaborate closely on key digital matters through shared dialogue and joint initiatives, fostering a human-centric digital transformation in both regions. As a critical component to delivering the ambitions of the Global Gateway in Latin America and the Caribbean, it forms part of the EU offer to build and boost trusted and sustainable connections with partner countries.

WHY A DIGITAL ALLIANCE EU-LAC?

- EU and LAC enjoy a **close** bi-regional Partnership**
- Large network** of trade, political & cooperation agreements (with 27 out of 33 LAC countries)
- Boosted political engagement** with a '[New Agenda for Relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean](#)' (2023)
- Enhance public-private cooperation: EU is the 1st investor** in LAC
- The **digital** transformation is a key factor for increased productivity and growth**
- Common interest to implement a **digital transformation** model that is **sustainable** and promotes **social inclusion****
- Shared **human-centric** approach to digital transformation: IT must benefit the people**

FAST TRACK MOVING FORWARD

27 OCT 2022 EU-CELAC Ministerial Meeting, Buenos Aires, HR/VP Josep Borrell called for an EU-LAC Digital Alliance	14 MAR 2023 EU-LAC Digital Alliance launched in Bogotá by Commission EVP Margrethe Vestager	17 JUL 2023 Joint Declaration EU-CELAC Summit, (Brussels)	27-29 NOV 2023 EU-LAC Digital Alliance Days in Cartagena (Colombia)	14-16 FEB 2024 EU-LAC Dialogue on Cybersecurity (Dominican Republic)
2025 EU-CELAC Summit 2025 in Bogotá (Colombia)	5-8 NOV 2024 EU-LAC Dialogue on AI (part II) + Dialogue on connectivity & inclusion (Chile) during the eLAC Ministerial	30 SEP-1 OCT 2024 EU-LAC Dialogue on Data Governance (Uruguay)	15-17 MAY 2024 EU-LAC Dialogue on E-Governance (Costa Rica)	12-14 MAR 2024 EU-LAC Dialogue on AI (part I) in Montevideo (Uruguay) during the eLAC preparatory meeting

COUNTRIES

The EU and the 27 EU Member States, Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay

PILLARS

- Political Dialogue
- Connectivity
- Business & Innovation
- Space & Satellite data

PRIORITIES

- Data governance
- e-Governance
- Cybersecurity
- Connectivity
- AI

APPROACH

- Public institutions
- Governments
- Financial organisations
- Private sector
- Civil society
- Academia

WALKING THE TALK

The Alliance also serves as a forum for developing the bi-regional Global Gateway Investment Agenda.

Team Europe

Total budget
€172 million

EU contribution: **€52M**

EU Member States: **€120M**



Implementation

- Improving and converging **digital policy and regulatory frameworks** through the establishment of structured multi-stakeholder dialogues
- Expanding the [BELLA cable programme](#) by **building secure digital regional backbone connectivity** for research and education networks within the LAC region and with the EU
- Establishing a regional **EU-LAC Digital Accelerator** to boost SMEs, start-ups, business cooperation and innovation
- Establishing a **regional Copernicus strategy** to enhance resilience and planning capacities of Latin American and Caribbean countries by providing spatial data management

The [D4D Hub](#) supports the implementation of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, in particular for the involvement of EU MS. They also ensure the multistakeholder approach by including private sector and civil society organisations in their Advisory Groups.

EU-LAC High-level Policy Dialogue



EU-LAC High-level Policy Dialogue on Digital Policy and Regulations aims to bring together LAC and EU policy makers at high-level and demand-driven regional policy dialogues, to build consensus and partnerships on digital policy and regulatory matters.



€9M

Other contributions

€400K

BELLA II



1st connection of this kind between two continents, the BELLA cable is 35.000km of submarine fiber-optic cable connecting the EU (from Portugal) and LAC (through Brazil). Its terrestrial backbone grants access to Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, Panama, Argentina and Colombia. It has connected 65M people so far. Next phase: Peru, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador y Honduras.



€13M

Other contributions

€15M

EU-LAC Digital Accelerator



Offers acceleration services to companies' joint ventures until investment-ready stage. The eligible joint ventures would link a corporation that has previously identified challenge that needs to be solved (e.g. Smart Production) and a start-up that can provide a digital solution to that need.



€14M

Regional Copernicus Centres for LAC



The [two centres](#) based in Panama and Chile will transfer skills, expertise and competitive EU space-related digital services to LAC countries where Satellite Earth Observation can make a difference addressing challenges like climate change and disaster risk management.

Chile Centre:



€4M +

University



€1M

Panama Centre:



€12M

DIGITAL FOR JOBS IN EL SALVADOR

Implementation of a vocational training system with private sector involvement in at least 10 vocational training facilities for vulnerable youth, specially girls. The training focuses on digital technologies and skills, has been co-designed with private sector, and it aims at bringing young people to the labour market in one year.



REGIONAL CYBER COMPETENCE CENTRE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The objective of the **LAC4** is to provide expertise in cybersecurity and cybercrime to support LAC's operational and transformation efforts, enhancing the cybersecurity development of LAC nations and their partners.



THE CARIBBEAN

Belize

- Better business and innovation climate for MSMEs
- Support women-led MSMEs located in rural communities

Jamaica

- Inclusive access to digital technologies in the education and MSMEs sectors
- Island-wide broadband access

Dominican Republic

- e-commerce and Digitalisation

Trinidad and Tobago

- Support the digital transition, including e-IDs

CENTRAL AMERICA

Guatemala

- Last km connectivity. Investment in connectivity infrastructure to foster digital transformation

El Salvador

- Last km connectivity to public schools and health centres
- Pacific optical fibre submarine cable
- Deployment of 5G

Costa Rica

- Deployment of 5G infrastructure to foster digital transformation

Panama

- Establishment of a Regional Copernicus Centre in Panama City, 100% Digital Coverage, digital business, innovation & education ecosystems



DIGITAL FOR PEACE IN COLOMBIA

Multisector initiative to provide access to electricity and digital infrastructure to citizens from rural areas, including 2,000 schools. The aim is to reduce the digital divide and increase connectivity to 85% of the population by 2026.

DIGITAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ARGENTINA

The project "Strengthening the Private Sector in the context of the digital transition in Argentina" has 3 main objectives:

1. Strengthen the EU chambers of commerce ecosystem in Argentina.
2. Level-up digital policy and regulatory framework in Argentina
3. Improve EU-Argentina trade and investment links in the digital and green economy.



SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia

- Electrification of social infrastructures in remote rural areas

Brazil

- Team Europe Initiative to promote strategic partnership with Brazil on digital transition agenda including cybersecurity, e-governance and regulatory framework.

Argentina

- Euro-Argentina academic alliance on scientific cooperation
- Framework development for AI

Chile

- Establishment of a Regional Copernicus Centre in Santiago

