EU-Latin America and the Caribbean
Digital Alliance

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

The EU International Digital Strategy **focuses on strengthening and expanding partnerships**

FAST TRACK MOVING FORWARD

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)

5-8 NOV 2024
Digital Week in Chile (EU-LAC AI and Connectivity Policy Dialogues & eLAC Ministerial)

26-27 MAY 2025
EU-LAC Dialogue on E-governance in Tallinn, Estonia

9-10 NOV 2025
CELAC-EU Summit in Santa Marta, Colombia

11-12 OCT 2025
Global Gateway Forum: scaling up the EU-LAC Supercomputing Network for AI in Brussels, Belgium

22-26 SEP 2025
Digital Alliance Week in Antigua, Guatemala

1-2 JULY 2025
EU-LAC Dialogue on AI and Platform Governance in São Paulo, Brazil

5-6 JUNE 2025
Policy Dialogue with the Caribbean in Kingston, Jamaica

COUNTRIES

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

PILLARS	PRIORITIES & LEADERSHIP	APPROACH
• **Political Dialogue** • **Connectivity** • **Business & Innovation** • **Space & Satellite data** • **Digital to boost competitiveness**	• **Data governance** (Uruguay and Spain) • **e-Governance** (Costa rica, Guatemala, Estonia) • **Cybersecurity** (Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Trinidad & Tobago and France) • **Connectivity** (Ecuador, Mexico and Germany) • **AI** (Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Spain, Slovenia and Germany)	• **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 € 214.5 million

EU contribution: **€94.5 M**

EU Member States: **€120M**

★ **Global Gateway**

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

The EU-LAC High-level Policy Dialogues on Digital Policy and Regulation aim at **improving and converging frameworks** through the establishment of structured multi-stakeholder dialogues. They bring together LAC and EU policy makers to build partnerships on digital policy and regulation.

€13M | Other contributions €600K | €750K

BELLA II

We are 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. 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. 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

The regional EU-LAC Digital Accelerator **boosts SMEs, start-ups, business cooperation and innovation** by offering 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 regional Copernicus strategy seeks to enhance resilience and planning capacities of LAC countries by providing spatial data. 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 €10M+ | University €1M | Panama Centre €12M | €700K

EU-LAC Supercomputing Network

The network will enhance the use of existing HPC resources within Latin America and to promote their connection with the European HPC ecosystem. **It contributes to boost competitiveness and economic growth through digital transformation and innovation**, by enabling digital and space solutions across sectors, in particular AI development.

€6M | Other contributions €8M | €1M

SOCIAL DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY IN EL SALVADOR

Nationwide initiative of optical fibre connecting all public schools (+5000) to high-speed internet and providing a computer for every student. The project includes teacher training and curriculum enhancement to strengthen digital education, improve learning outcomes, and promote inclusion by equipping the next generation with the skills needed for the digital future.

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
- Digital transformation to boost innovation, productivity and economic growth

Trinidad and Tobago
- Support the digital transition, including e-IDs

DIGITAL FOR PEACE IN COLOMBIA

Provides access to 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.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Guatemala
- E-governance solutions, public finance management and cybersecurity
- Last km, satellite and cable connectivity
- Digital Economy: increasing access to finance and skills for MSMEs benefiting about 79,000 people, of which 70% of women

El Salvador
- Last km connectivity to public schools and health centres
- Pacific optical fibre submarine cable
- Deployment of 5G
- Digital for Jobs: vocational trainings for vulnerable youth, specially girls, on digital technologies

Costa Rica
- Deployment of 5G infrastructure to foster digital transformation

Panama
- Establishment of a Regional Copernicus Centre in Panama City

SUB-REGIONAL INITIATIVES FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

The Central American Digital Trade Platform: facilitates cross-border interaction between government authorities of 6 Central American countries and simplifies complex trade operations. More than 10,000 Central American exporting companies are projected to benefit from the platform, reducing trade costs by 3.2%.

Regional regulatory innovation for Central America: modernise regulatory frameworks to stimulate investment and facilitate the adoption of emerging technologies such as AI. 8 SICA countries involved.

TRIANGULAR COOPERATION ON CYBERSECURITY

Strengthening public institutional frameworks for cybersecurity. Countries involved: project led by Chile and targeting 12 countries in the region: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia
- Digital for Peace

Brazil
- Digital connectivity to the Amazon: extension of the submarine cable to the States of Maranhão and Pará

Argentina
- Euro-Argentina academic alliance on scientific cooperation
- Promotion of open government policies and citizen participation at the subnational level, alongside the advancement of workers' digital rights
- Driving digital transformation and technological innovation

Chile
- Regional Copernicus Centre in Santiago: additional observation services, development of a business incubator and new interactive exhibition
- Triangular cooperation on cybersecurity