



EU-LAC Foundation
Fundación EU-LAC

EU-LAC NEWSLETTER 02/2022

EU-LAC relations: an engine for sustained and sustainable growth

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Introduction



WITH NEW STIMULI FOR 2022

Adrián Bonilla

Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation

We are pleased to share with you the first edition of the EU-LAC Foundation Newsletter 2022, which informs you about the Foundation's recent work and publications and anticipates the themes that will preoccupy us in the new year.

We start the year with the preparation of several activities to be carried out in the strategic themes of the EU-LAC Foundation: **Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Economy, Climate Change, Culture, Multilateralism and Bi-regional Association, and Gender**. Through the new strategic line of gender, we want to underline the EU-LAC Foundation's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 5 to generate actions to promote gender equality in the field of the strategic partnership between the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). In this line, we will carry out a series of activities that are articulated around the construction of an **EU-LAC Women's International Network** - an initiative led by the President of the EU-LAC Foundation, Leire Pajín. We kindly invite you to attend its launch in March and join our efforts in this context.

The commercial ties between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean are a relevant pillar of their strategic partnership. Therefore, we are pleased to include in this edition of our newsletter an opinion piece by the Deputy Head of Unit, DG TRADE Latin-America Unit, European

Commission **Eva Carballeira Fernandez**, sharing her views on the trade relations between both regions.

In addition, the newsletter conveys a set of very heterogeneous perspectives on bi-regional relations between Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU, which we offer in our EU-LAC Blog for further reading.

Opinion Article



EU-LAC RELATIONS: AN ENGINE FOR SUSTAINED AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Eva Carballeira Fernandez

Deputy Head of Unit, DG TRADE Latin-America Unit,
European Commission

The LAC region is a “strategic partner” of the EU with which we want to “join forces for a common future”, as outlined in the [Joint Communication on EU-LAC relations \(2019\)](#). Trade is a key component of the EU political agenda, and an important vector for the EU to promote its democratic values, rules and high standards. Since the early 2000s, the EU has concluded 11 bilateral and regional trade agreements with LAC countries (all countries except Mercosur, Bolivia and Venezuela). Just over the last decade, bilateral trade in goods with the region has increased by over 25%.

The EU is today a balance and counterbalance for US and China’s influence in the LAC region, where it has considerable economic interests. An important feature of EU policy towards Latin America is its continuous support for regional integration and democratization, for which the EU offers a useful model, and it has done so also through trade agreements. EU-LAC trade agreements are market-opening tools but also tools for “good governance”. They help secure third-country markets for EU goods and services and level the playing field so that we can compete on a fair basis, including by solving trade frictions. Moreover, these agreements provide legal certainty and security for businesses and investors, promote sustainability standards and constitute useful platforms for engagement and coordination in areas of joint interest.

Trade remains a key driver for growth, innovation and competitiveness in both regions, and for our diversification strategy post-Covid. Latin America has played a role as a supplier of critical goods to the EU during the Covid-19 pandemic. This is especially true for pharmaceutical products, where EU imports from Mexico grew by €513 million in the first four months of 2020 – an equivalent of a 360% increase from 2019. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 crisis has hit Latin America harder than any other region of the world and the recovery remains fragile. Cooperation to address these challenges as well as the need to drive green, digital and inclusive recovery remain top of the EU agenda, and are the main themes of the recent EU-LAC Leader’s Summit 2021².

In our pursuit for “open strategic autonomy”³, the EU needs to consolidate this strategic partnership by creating the necessary conditions for the ratification of the EU-Mercosur agreement and by concluding the modernized agreement with Mexico and Chile. This is a test for EU global ambitions. Bilateral trade with Mercosur represents 40% of EU trade with the region. China has already overtaken the EU to become Mercosur’s main trading partner. Clearly, the fires in the Amazon will not be extinguished by pulling out from this agreement. Concerns over deforestation are best addressed via engagement and cooperation, and this agreement

¹ Since 2017, China has overtaken the EU in Latin America and has become the main trading partner of major economies like Mercosur, Peru and Chile.

² See press release, [EU-Latin America & Caribbean Leaders’ Meeting: Joining forces for a sustainable post-COVID recovery - Press release by Presidents Michel and von der Leyen - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#)

³ See [EU trade policy \(europa.eu\)](#)



provides a useful platform for that while contributing to the objectives of the Green Deal⁴.

Finally, the EU is stepping up its global connectivity efforts, also seeking to offer viable alternatives to China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' in regions such as Latin America through the Global Gateway initiative. This initiative can contribute to closing the infrastructure gap that is holding back competitiveness in the region by bolstering investment in digital, climate, energy and transport infrastructure⁵, and pave the way for greater regional integration to boost economic growth.

OVERVIEW OF TRADE AGREEMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA

First Generation trade agreements:

- Mexico (2000)
- Chile (2003)

New Generation trade agreements:

- Colombia (2013)
- Peru (2013)
- Ecuador (2017)
- Central America (2013): Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

Concluded negotiations on new FTAs:

- Mexico (modernised agreement)
- Chile (modernised agreement)
- MERCOSUR: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay

⁴ See [A European Green Deal | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#); also [Forest strategy \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁵ See [Global Gateway: up to €300 billion \(europa.eu\)](#)

News

Dr Adrián Bonilla participated in the SEGIB conference “International Partnerships: Europe-Latin America”

25 February 2022

Read more:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/dr-adrian-bonilla-participated-segib-conference-international-partnerships-europe-latin-america>

The Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation, Dr Adrián Bonilla, took part on 22 February in the seminar “International Partnerships: Europe-Latin Amer-

ica”, which was organised by the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and which took place in a hybrid format at the SEGIB’s premises in Madrid.



The EU-LAC Foundation positions the promotion of cultural heritage and cultural routes at the centre of the bi-regional relations

24 February 2022

Read more:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/eu-lac-foundation-positions-promotion-cultural-heritage-and-cultural-routes-centre-bi-regional>

On 17 and 18 February of 2022, representatives of central institutions from Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) came together in the virtual II. EU-LAC Dialogue Sessions on “Cooperation and Policies in the realm of Cultural Heritage, Cultural Routes,

and their relevance for the Bi-regional Partnership between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean”, co-organised by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Culture of Peru and the EU-LAC Foundation.



SEGIB and EU-LAC Foundation sign collaboration agreement to jointly deepen bi-regional relations between Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe

22 February 2022

Read more:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/segib-and-eu-lac-foundation-sign-collaboration-agreement-jointly-deepen-bi-regional-relations>

The Executive Director of the EU-LAC International Foundation, Adrián Bonilla Soria, and the Secretary-General of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), Andrés Allamand, signed today

a framework cooperation agreement to join efforts to strengthen integration and collaboration between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean.



Mission of the EU-LAC Foundation to Barcelona

01 February 2022

From 19 to 22 January, the Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation, Dr Adrián Bonilla, and the Senior Programme Manager for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, and Culture, Dr Anna Barrera Vivero, undertook a mission to Barcelona to

strengthen ties with existing partners, to discuss possible joint activities within the thematic framework of Higher Education and Science, Technology and Innovation, and to present the Foundation to new potential partners.



Read more:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/mission-eu-lac-foundation-barcelona>

Diplomatic Academy of Ecuador to receive technical cooperation from the EU-LAC International Foundation for the training of diplomats

07 January 2022

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility (deputy), Luis Vayas Valdivieso, and the executive director of the EU-LAC Foundation, Adrián Bonilla, signed a Cooperation Agreement

between the Diplomatic Academy of Ecuador and the EU-LAC International Foundation, whose objective is the education, training and updating of the Ecuadorian foreign service.



Read more:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/diplomatic-academy-ecuador-receive-technical-cooperation-eu-lac-international-foundation-training>

UNDP and the EU-LAC Foundation renew their partnership to advance a common agenda for Sustainable Development

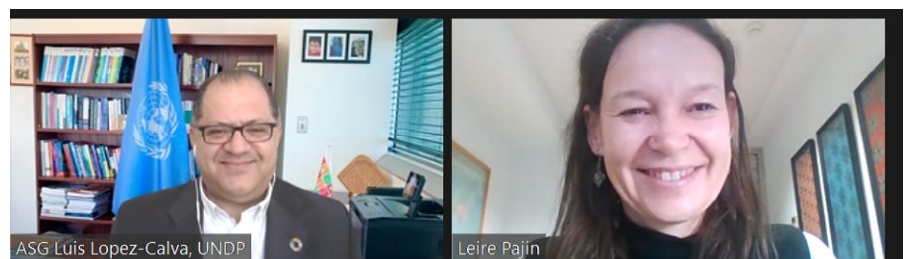
14 December 2021

Read more:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/undp-and-eu-lac-foundation-renew-their-partnership-advance-common-agenda-sustainable-development>

The EU-LAC International Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a strategic framework cooperation agreement in order to join efforts in 2022 to reinforce

the integration and collaboration between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean towards the implementation of the sustainable development goals.



Recovery as an opportunity for transformative social change: Pathways towards an EU-LAC partnership for cohesive societies

13 December 2021

On 1 December 2021, members of central institutions from Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean came together in the webinar entitled “The recovery as an opportunity for transformative social change: pathways towards an EU-LAC partnership for cohesive societies”, co-organised by the Slovenian EU Council Presidency, the European External Action Service (EEAS), and the Directo-

rate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission (DG INTPA) in partnership with the EU-LAC Foundation and the OECD Development Centre. The webinar aimed at highlighting the challenges of strengthening social cohesion in the post-COVID-19 recovery, and at discussing ways forward for the partnership between the EU and LAC region to address them.

Read more:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/recovery-opportunity-transformative-social-change-pathways-towards-eu-lac-partnership-cohesive>



Closing of the 1st Edition of the Training and Update Programme for Young Diplomats on the EU-CELAC Strategic Partnership

06 December 2021

On 3 December 2021, the first edition of the “Training and Update Programme for Young Diplomats on the EU-CELAC Strategic Partnership”, offered by the EU-LAC Foundation and the Ibero-American

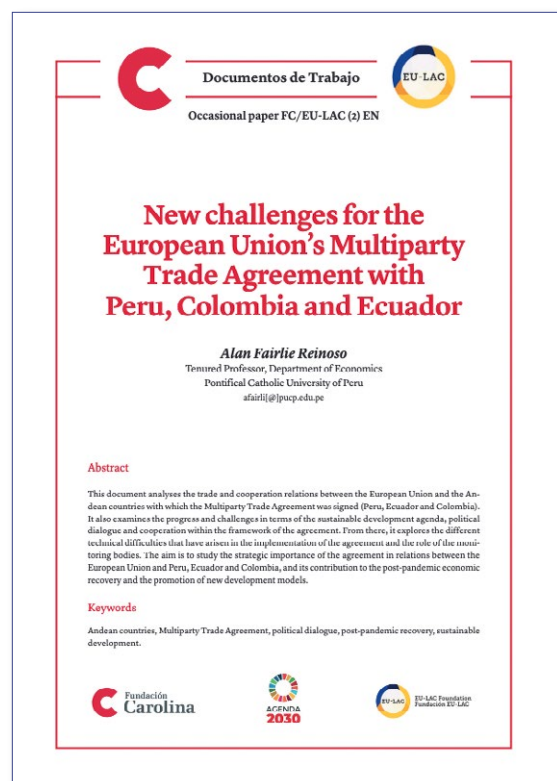
Institute of the University of Salamanca, came to a successful conclusion after the completion of 10 specialised academic modules that began on 22 November.

Read more:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/closing-1st-edition-training-and-update-programme-young-diplomats-eu-celac-strategic-partnership>



Recent Publications



New challenges for the European Union's Multiparty Trade Agreement with Peru, Colombia and Ecuador

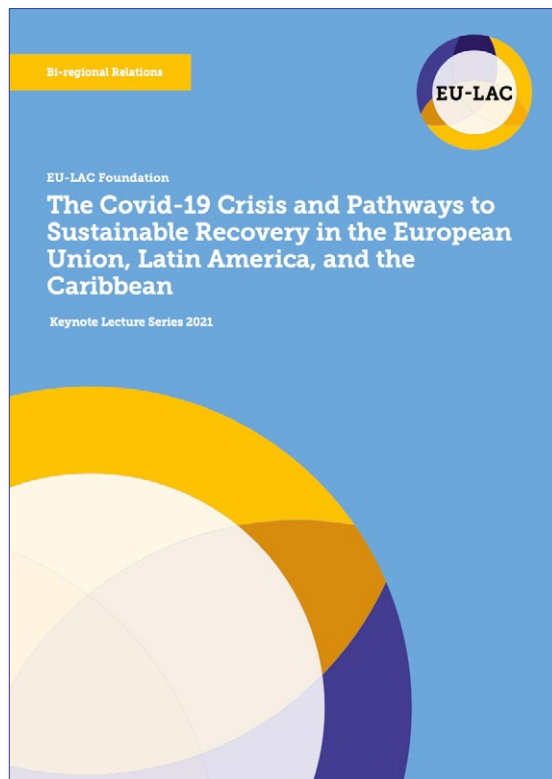
This document analyses the trade and cooperation relations between the European Union and the Andean countries with which the Multiparty Trade Agreement was signed (Peru, Ecuador and Colombia). It also examines the progress and challenges in terms of the sustainable development agenda, political dialogue and cooperation within the framework of the agreement. From there, it explores the different technical difficulties that have arisen in the implementation of the agreement and the role of the monitoring bodies. The aim is to study the strategic importance of the agreement in relations between the European Union and Peru, Ecuador and Colombia, and its contribution to the post-pandemic economic recovery and the promotion of new development models.

Version in English:

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Especial_FC_EULAC_2_EN.PDF

Version in Spanish:

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Especial_FC_EULAC_2_ES.PDF

**Version in English:**

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Publication_KeynoteLectures2021.pdf

Version in Spanish:

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/PublicacionConferenciasMagistrales_2021.pdf

The Covid-19 Crisis and Pathways to Sustainable Recovery in the European Union, Latin America, and the Caribbean

The EU-LAC Foundation is pleased to present the publication “The Covid-19 Crisis and Pathways to Sustainable Recovery in the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean” which compiles the interventions presented during a Keynote Lecture Series 2021 held virtually from July to September 2021 in collaboration with the Latin American Studies Programme of the University of Hamburg.

These conferences were implemented with the objective of contributing to the generation of knowledge and the exchange between scientists, civil society actors, public officials and decision-makers on the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in different political, economic and social sectors particularly affected by the pandemic, as well as on concepts, good practices and public policies that have been developed in Latin American, Caribbean and European countries to lead to a better and sustainable recovery of these sectors.

In doing so, the 2021 Keynote Lecture Series responded to some of the common priorities identified by the high authorities of both regions. In December 2020, at the EU27-LAC Informal Ministerial Meeting, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean countries expressed their deep concern about the devastating impact of the coronavirus and “reaffirmed their determination to step up joint efforts to overcome the multidimensional challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, which risks exacerbating existing structural gaps, inequalities, social, economic and financial exclusion”.



The Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement and relations between the European Union and Cuba

This document makes an assessment of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) between Cuba and the European Union (EU) in its four years of validity, and of the evolution of political and economic relations between both parties. The analysis is structured in five headings that address the background, determinants and significance of the PDCA between Cuba and the EU; the main elements discussed in the political dialogue—and in thematic dialogue—between the two parties since 2018, and the central aspects of trade, investment and cooperation relations between Cuba and the EU.

The report concludes that, unlike the United States, the EU is able to support the complex process of economic and institutional transformations underway in Cuba, in four fundamental areas: i) technical assistance and advice for the design and implementation of public policies, macroeconomic management, decentralisation and local development; ii) cooperation to fight climate change and transform Cuba's productive and technological structure; iii) the promotion and encouragement of foreign investment flows from Europe, targeting key productive sectors; and iv) the exploration of financial opportunities for Cuba through the European Investment Bank (EIB) under the current PDCA.

Version in English:

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Especial_FC_EULAC_1_EN.pdf

Version in Spanish:

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Especial_FC_EULAC_1_ES.pdf



Version in English:

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Report_Webinar_Circular%20Economy_Final.pdf

Version in Spanish:

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Informe_Webinario%20_Economy_Circular_Final.pdf

Circular Economy – Governance & Scale: Europe & Latin America and the Caribbean in conversation about circular transition

The webinar **“Circular Economy – Governance & Scale: Europe & Latin America and the Caribbean in conversation about circular transition”** took place on 22-23 November 2021 and was co-organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia and the EU-LAC Foundation, in partnership with Exchange 4 Change Brazil (E4CB), Circular Change, and the Brazilian Centre for International Relations (CEBRI). It was held in the framework of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and was part of the celebration of the EU-LAC Foundation's 10th anniversary, in line with its area of work on Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Economy. The recordings (Part 1 and Part 2) are available on the [EU-LAC Foundation's YouTube Channel](#).

The event aimed at providing a platform for experts and business leaders from selected sectors to showcase their expertise and share best practices as well as to enable a high-level dialogue about opportunities for new partnerships to advance the circular transition. In this sense, the panels and keynotes allowed to shed light upon recent advancements in the field of circularity while contributing to raise awareness on the importance of overcoming the traditional notions of a linear and unsustainable economy. In particular, the potential of building on the post-COVID-19 recovery efforts of the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to leverage the shift towards a circular economy on a global scale was emphasised.



Version in English:

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/Report_Webinar_Cohesive_Societies_rev_final_reduced.pdf

Version in Spanish:

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Informe_Webinario_Sociedades_Cohesionadas_final.pdf

The recovery as an opportunity for transformative social change: pathways towards an EU-LAC partnership for cohesive societies

The webinar "The recovery as an opportunity for transformative social change: pathways towards an EU-LAC partnership for cohesive societies" took place on 1 December 2021 and was co-organised by the 2021 Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission (DG INTPA) in partnership with the EU-LAC Foundation and the OECD Development Centre. The webinar was moderated by Mr. Tine Rus, diplomat at the Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU. The recording is available on the YouTube page of the EU-LAC Foundation.

The objective of the event was to highlight the challenge of strengthening social cohesion in the post-COVID19 recovery and discuss ways forward for the partnership between the EU and LAC region to address these challenges. The webinar was opened with a presentation of the main findings and recommendations of the 2021 Latin American Economic Outlook (OECD/ECLAC/EU/CAF), which feeding into the framework of Development in Transition, delves into options for re-thinking the social contract and the role to be played by international cooperation.

The webinar brought together a wide range of leading experts from both the EU and LAC, to discuss the recovery as an opportunity for transformative social change, around three main angles:

1. challenges to social protection with the focus on vulnerable groups and addressing informality;
2. the key role of fiscal policies;
3. options for transformative change in relation to more inclusive policy design and partnerships

Blog Articles

Ulrich Mücke

Latin American Independence and Europe

31 January 2022



Between 2010 and 2025, most Latin American countries celebrate the bicentenary of their independence from Spain and Portugal. At first sight, the Latin American independence appears to be a separation between Latin America and Europe. In 1825, the Spanish Empire in the Americas was reduced to Cuba and Puerto Rico, and there was nothing left of the Portuguese one. However, the independence at the beginning of the 19th century did not separate the Americas from Europe. Rather, they were a moment in a shared history between the two continents that brought them closer together in the long run.

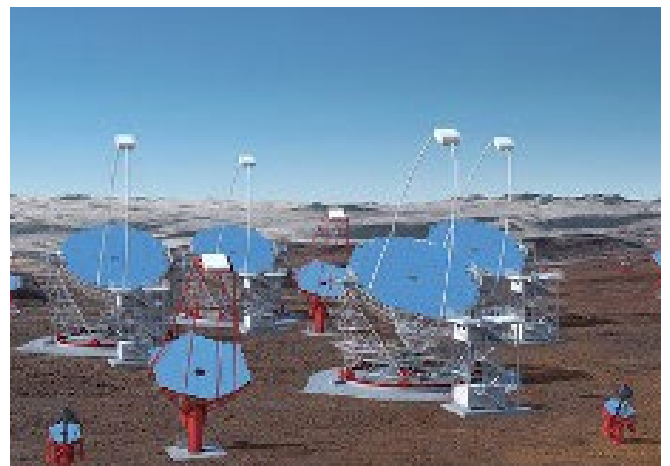
Read more:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/latin-american-independence-and-europe>

Rosanna Norman

BELLA impact – Large data exchanges and high-capacity connectivity will enable the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA) to open a new window to the Universe

2 December 2021



Connectivity can be a major hurdle for global collaborative research organisations. Such initiatives are progressively taking centre stage as humanity seeks to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time and to answer questions about the universe.

Read more:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/bella-impact-large-data-exchanges-and-high-capacity-connectivity-will-enable-cherenkov-telescope>

Stefan Rinke

Latin America and Europe: A Historical Perspective

12 November 2021



Latin America has a very special relationship with Europe. The utopia of European thinkers meant dystopia for the people living there before the Europeans. After all, it was this continent that first fell under European colonial rule. Here, explorers and conquerors rehearsed the exploitation of other regions of the world that was to become the basis of Europe's rise in the 19th century. At the same time, a diversity of populations and cultures emerged here, in which people from all parts of the world participated. In the course of the last 500 years, this phenomenon has slowly spread across the world, and since the 20th century it has also been increasingly perceived in Europe and named with the term "globalization".

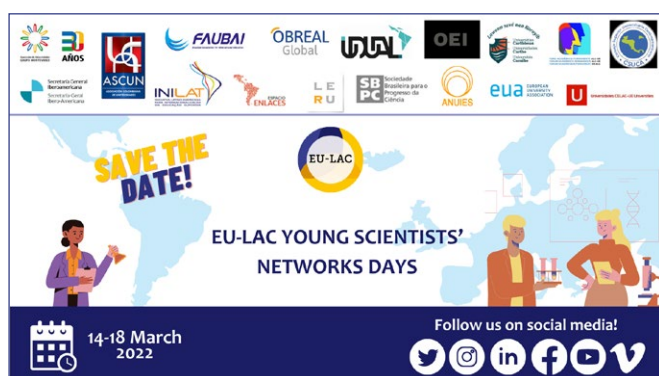
Read more:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/latin-america-and-europe-historical-perspective>

Upcoming Events

EU-LAC Young Scientists' Networks Days 2022

Date and Place: 14 March 2022 - 18 March 2022,
Event Online



The EU-LAC Young Scientists' Networks Days are inviting representatives of networks and groups of young European, Latin American, and Caribbean scientists who are pursuing a PhD, or are engaged as junior researchers, whose field of study is relevant to Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean, or to the bi-regional partnership itself, in order to offer them a space for:

1. the articulation of their concerns, needs, ideas and perspectives on the EU-CELAC Common Area of Higher Education and bi-regional cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation;
2. the elaboration of proposals and inputs for dialogue with universities, university associations and decision-makers in the realm of science from both regions; and
3. the facilitation of their interaction, the increase of their visibility and the strengthening of their networks.

Participation by personal invitation only.

Launch “EU-LAC Women’s International Network”: Women as Key Actors in Climate Action and Disaster Prevention

Date and Place: 23 March 2022,
Event Online



Event co-organised by the EU-LAC Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The event entitled EU-LAC Women as Key Actors in Climate Action and Disaster Prevention, launching the EU-LAC Women’s International Network, co-organised by the EU-LAC Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is articulated around the exchange of experiences, strategies, and innovative ideas to ensure the design and implementation of gender approaches in climate agendas, based on lessons learned in LAC and the EU and its member countries. Thus, the space of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is an unprecedented opportunity for the two regions to consider how to promote transformative agendas and concrete actions on environmental and gender issues, especially after almost 3 decades of significant progress in commitments at the international, regional, and national levels.

More information and register on our website!

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/launch-eu-lac-womens-international-network-women-key-actors-climate-action-and-disaster-prevention>

Meeting of Think Tanks, Research Centres and Study Associations based in the EU dedicated to the analysis of LAC and the Bi-regional Relations

Date and Place: 28 April 2022 - 29 April 2022, Berlin

Joint activity of the Ibero-American Institute (IAI) and the GIGA - Institute of Latin American Studies (GIGA-ILAS) and the EU-LAC International Foundation

Together with the Ibero-American Institute (IAI) and the GIGA – Institute for Latin American Studies (GIGA-ILAS), the EU-LAC International Foundation is organising a Meeting of Think Tanks, Research Centres and Study Associations based in Europe dedicated to the analysis of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Bi-regional Relations between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, which is to be held in person in the Simon Bolivar Hall of the IAI in Berlin, Germany, on 28-29 April 2022.

Participation by personal invitation only.



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