



# EU-LAC Foundation Newsletter

## September 2014

Editorial: Towards a Common Space of Higher Education

Dear friends,

From the outset of the EU-LAC strategic partnership “[a] more dynamic and creative co-operation in the educational, scientific, technological, cultural, human and social fields.” (**Paragraph 7 of the Rio Declaration**) The strategic partnership is based upon the cultural heritage that unites both regions, and on the diversity of their respective cultural expressions. Education then, is at the core of the associative process of both regions.

In this framework different programmes and projects have been implemented. Their results have been measured, and have produced a fascinating dynamic that reveals the enormous potential of the bi-regional work in this field. From this experience a twofold aspect in the realm of education is being flagged as of fundamental importance in the short and long-run to both the EU and LAC regions: higher education and vocational training.

Given its importance for the bi-regional process and the current dynamics around it, the Foundation dedicates this issue of the Newsletter to Higher Education, and a future one will be dedicated to youth employment covering vocational training and lifelong learning.

Ministers responsible for Higher Education from the EU and LAC met for the first time in Paris in 2000, opening a process that led to the Guadalajara Ministerial Declaration of 2004 and later endorsed by the Rectors of important universities from both regions in the **Leyden Declaration**.

Thanks to the initiative two academic institutions in Latin America (*CELARE*), and Europe (*Institute des Ameriques*) the process was reignited leading to the I EU-CELAC Academic Summit, held in Santiago, Chile in 2013 with the participation of around 400 representatives from universities and academic institutions from both continents. It is a process open to the participation of all interested universities from 61 countries, including all Member States of the EU, as well as from all CELAC countries. It aims to interact both with Governments and business in promoting the creation of the EU-CELAC Common Space of Higher Education, and above all, to generate a virtuous cycle among universities towards accreditation and shared knowledge. Currently this process is preparing its second summit in Brussels, in June 2015. A first seminar was held in **Bucharest** last

May and a second preparatory meeting is being prepared for 25-26 November in **Guadalajara, Mexico**.

More recently other initiatives have emerged. The Spanish Universities Rectors Council (CRUE) recently launched an initiative to organize the "I Summit of Presidents of Rector Councils of the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean" with the purpose of preparing proposals for the EU-CELAC Heads of State and Government Summit. According to CRUE's President this initiative "... should help improve initiatives by the EU related to research and mobility with Spanish America".

The main challenge in the short-run for policy makers and universities appears to be the convergence of all these valid efforts into one single agenda, focused on the single long-term objective of creating a sustainable EU-CELAC Common Knowledge Space encompassing all 28 Member States of the EU and the 33 of CELAC, and where research and innovation activities and higher education can better use the advantages of bi-regional scale and the wealth, complementarity and diversity of cultural expressions, knowledge and resources.

We wish you enjoy reading this edition of the EU – LAC Foundation Newsletter!

- **TOPIC: Higher Education**
- **Activities of the EU-LAC Foundation**
- **Promoting young researchers**
- **Announcement: The EU-LAC Foundation launches Online Forum**

## TOPIC: Higher Education

Androulla Vassiliou  
European Commissioner for  
Education, Culture, Multilingualism  
and Youth



### Erasmus+ goes global

Erasmus+ is the new European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport. It aims at boosting people's skills and employability and to support the

Héctor Casanueva  
Ambassador of Chile in Geneva  
at the World Trade Organization  
(WTO)



### The Common Higher Education Area in the Strategic Partnership between Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU

The declaration of the Madrid EU-LAC Summit of 2002,

## Upcoming events:


**01 - 03 October 2014**  
**25th Plenary Assembly of CEAL**

**08 October 2014**  
**Debate on Climate Change with Minister Oquist of Nicaragua**

**10 October 2014**  
**Discussion "Social Protests & Democratic Responsiveness: Realities in LAC & the EU"**

**25 - 26 November 2014**  
**2nd Preparatory Meeting for the EU-LAC Academic Summit**

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modernisation of education and training in Europe and beyond. Thanks to Erasmus+, more than 4 million people across Europe will receive support in order to study, train, work or volunteer abroad, in a new culture, in a new language, with new friends. Compared to its predecessors, Erasmus+ is **more global** and more integrated.


In the past EU Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) wishing to co-operate with partners around the world had to choose between a vast and sometime confusing array of programmes. From January 2014, all of this has changed. With Erasmus+ the European Union has streamlined the architecture of its international higher education programmes, merging all existing initiatives in a single programme.

[Read the full opinion here...](#)

states the creation of a European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean Common Area of Higher Education. It was within this framework that a group of universities from both regions decided to bring to fruition the First LAC-EU Academic Summit in January 2013 with the aim of bringing together a broad spectrum of universities, research centres, university authorities, and academic networks from both regions.

The First Academic Summit opened up a new path towards the creation of a common bi-regional area, with the creation of the EU-LAC Permanent Academic Forum. This is a long road, but as ever, it begins with the taking of one step.

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## Publications of interest:

Brudzińska, Kinga (2014) **'V4-Latin America and the Caribbean States: New Partners?'** No. 16 (52), August 2014

Constant LaForce, V.A. (2014). **'The EU-Caribbean Trade Relationship Post-Lisbon: the Case of Bananas'**, Journal of Contemporary European Research. 10 (2), pp. 266-279.

Toni, Ana (2014). **'De Varsovia a Lima: ¿Dónde estamos? ¿Qué vendrá? ¿Cómo puede contribuir América Latina?'**, Nueva Sociedad. No. 252, pp.55-7, Julio-Agosto 2014.

Guerra Barón, Angélica (2014). **'¿Gobernanza multinivel o intergubernamentalismo en inversión?'** in Pastrana Buelvas, Eduardo and Gehring, Hubert (ed.) (2014).

**'Suramérica en el escenario global: gobernanza multinivel y birregionalismo,** Bogotá: Editorial Pontificia Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Universidad Santiago de Cali, p. 327-365 (chapter 11).

Jocelyne Gacel-Ávila  
President of the Mexican Association for International Education

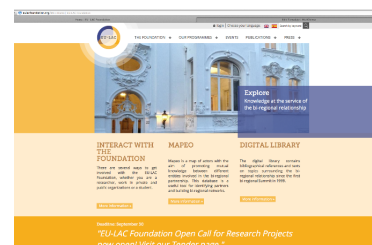


**Comprehensive Internationalization in Latin America and the Caribbean**

David Rampersad  
Executive Director, Central Office for Regional & International Affairs at the University of the West Indies



**Collaboration in Higher Education: A Perspective from the Caribbean**



**EU-LAC Foundation's NEW Website**

The Foundation has

The aim of internationalization strategies is to develop intercultural competencies in students, including an increase in the cognitive capacities required to live and work in an environment shaped by the knowledge society. The aforementioned aim requires the implementation of a process of internationalization framed within a concept of *comprehensive internationalization*, that is, through the integration of the international and intercultural dimension into the substantive functions of higher education, into its culture and the everyday behaviour associated with it, as well as schemes for physical mobility of individuals. Within such a framework, internationalization strategies need to be transversal in relation to policies, and institutional in terms of integrating the international dimension into the three levels of the educational process: the macro (institutional decision-making and policy design), the medium (in relation to curriculum structure), and the micro (in terms of teaching and learning activities), with all of this being carried out in a holistic and systematic way (Gacel-Ávila, 2012).

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While geography has helped to facilitate collaboration among higher education institutions (HEIs) in the Caribbean, history and language have tended to circumscribe it. However, there is growing recognition that collaboration, especially through research and mobility programmes, can advance institutional capacity building and successful knowledge transfer. Although funding for collaboration has not been bountiful, existing schemes have undoubtedly encouraged it and can have greater impact if increased.

Despite the tradition of collaboration among Caribbean HEIs and between them and EU HEIs which has had an impact on capacity building, the human development and the infrastructural deficit in the Caribbean stymies the expansion of sustainable relationships. Targeted support which recognises the special needs of countries such as those in the Caribbean and includes actions to facilitate a greater participation rate, will strengthen Caribbean HEIs so that they can participate more effectively in EU-funded programmes.

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launched a new, more integrated, functional and dynamic website, with the intention of providing an overview of its activities, facilitate the search for information and serve as a platform for meeting and dialogue.

The new website includes, among other novelties, a **virtual library** with bibliographic references and relevant academics texts on the bi-regional relationship, a section for the contest "**Two regions a Picture**" to select the image that best represents the links between the European Union Latin America and the Caribbean, and a window to **Interact with the Foundation** and get involved in their programmes.



### **Latin American Autumn in Hamburg**

the EU-LAC Foundation promotes the first edition of this festival in Hamburg dedicated to Latin America & the Caribbean. On until 21 of December 2014. Check the full programme of activities [here](#).

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J. Fongers & N. Cruz  
University of Groningen & UNAM

Manuel P. López  
President of CRUE

 [Forward to Friend](#)



## **Europe & Latin America: Enhancing University Relations by Investing in Cooperative Actions**

The basis of EURICA is the consortium of twenty Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), from eight Latin American and seven European countries. Latin American partners include the main public HEIs in four Central American countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Additionally, EURICA includes two partners from Argentina, Chile and Colombia and three in Mexico. All of them are public, but very diverse in terms of their size and experience with internationalisation. Together we aim to implement nearly three hundred mobility flows over the period 2013-2017 back and forth between Europe and Latin America, targeting both students, researchers and support staff on all levels.

[Read the full opinion here...](#)



## **The need to build a Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean based on knowledge**

Some countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced in recent decades high rates of economic growth, thus finding a better way to cope with the crisis, which has been accompanied by a strong social development. Although these countries live through different situations, we all find ourselves in a key moment to make decisions that allow us to start in a new type of insertion into the economy and politics of the world. The need for the existence of Europe, Latin America and Caribbean which are organized around knowledge focuses all eyes of the University. Universities accept that challenge and moreover, they have joined their strengths to become more competitive in their social function of promoting development. Indeed, this objective is what has brought together the heads of Latin American universities last July in the city of Rio de Janeiro, in the III Meeting of rectors of Universia.

[Read the full opinion here...](#)



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## Activities of the EU-LAC Foundation

A Latin American Autumn

### EU-LAC FOUNDATION PROMOTES LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN HAMBURG



Picture by Arne Bosselmann, Museum of Ethnology - Hamburg

The EU-LAC Foundation has joined efforts to make Latin America and the Caribbean protagonists of Hamburg's Autumn cultural programme, through a three-month festival that includes dozens of musical performances, jazz, dance, theatre, film, gastronomy and even a tour at the local Planetarium through the astronomy knowledge and myths of the Mayan civilization.

This initiative had the support of more than forty organizations and the active participation of Latin American consulates, Hamburg's Museum of Ethnology and the Senate of the city-State, in which the Foundation has its seat since 2011.

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**Symposium "Breaking the Myth of Paradise: the future of SIDS"**

**The EU-LAC Foundation advocates for stronger integration of the Caribbean into the bi-regional process**



The EU-LAC Foundation reaffirmed the importance of the full integration of the Caribbean into the bi-regional process, on the occasion of the symposium held on July 10 in Brussels at the initiative of the Joint Embassy of the Eastern Caribbean States to the European Union.

The highlight of the event was the presence of the Honourable Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Mr Kenny Anthony, who gave the keynote address. In his speech, Prime Minister Anthony called on European authorities to keep its development aid policy and encouraged them to continue working with the island states in the Caribbean to find ways to make real the full benefits of the strategic bi-regional partnership.

The Brussels meeting comes two months before the III World Conference of SIDS in Apia, Samoa, and in the year, which the United Nations has designated as the International Year of Small Island Developing States.

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**II Meeting of the Working Group for International Cooperation  
of CELAC GLOBAL FORUM TO ACCOMMODATE A  
TRIANGULAR COOPERATION LAC-EU**



Picture courtesy of Costa Rica's pro-tempore Presidency of CELAC 2014

The Working-group of International Cooperation of the countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) discussed on July 30 in special meeting the "Potential triangular cooperation between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union."

This session, in which the EU-LAC Foundation was represented by its Executive Director, Jorge Valdez, and the coordinator of the Explore Programme, Bettina Trueb, allowed to set up the general guidelines for the cooperation between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean, and showed some possibilities for innovation in this cooperation. The support of the EU-LAC Foundation to this event is part of the activities carried out within the framework of its EU-LAC Forum on Global Governance.

The Foundation, in its programme of activities, sees the holding of this forum as an opportunity for the participation of both regions in the implementation of the sustainable development goals that the UN aims to fix.

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**FLACSO-ISA Conference**  
**"The EU, Latin America and the Caribbean: Partners in global governance?"**





Picture by José Antonio Sanahuja

The EU-LAC Foundation participated in the International Conference held from 23 to 25 July in Buenos Aires under the banner of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) and the International Studies Association (ISA) opening spaces for debate on the role played by the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean as regional powers in the multipolar world emerged at the dawn of the 21st century.

The academic José Antonio Sanahuja, from Madrid's Instituto Complutense de Estudios Internacionales, and Bettina Trueb, coordinator of the EU-LAC Foundation Programme Explore, were in charge of putting the debate forward, one in which also took part the academics Günther Maihold from Colegio de Mexico; Andrés Malamud, from Instituto de Ciencias Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa, and Lorena Oyarzun, from Instituto de Asuntos Públicos de la Universidad de Chile (INAP).

In the panel of the FLACSO-ISA Conference sponsored by the Foundation under the theme "The European Union, Latin America and Caribbean: Powers in a multipolar world or partners in the global governance?", the experts analysed from the bi-regional perspective ideas, incentives and preferences when it comes to collaboration in the construction and consolidation of rules, institutions and regimes in different areas, such as human rights and democracy or the fight against the worldwide problem of drugs.

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**OECD Development Centre-EU-LAC Foundation Seminar on New EU development cooperation strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean**  
**President Humala: "The golden decade is about to arrive"**



The President of Peru, Ollanta Humala, inaugurated on June 30th in Paris the seminar co-organized by the OECD's Development Centre and the EU-LAC Foundation to analyse new strategies of the cooperation of UE in Latin America and the Caribbean. The seminar was also inaugurated by the heads of these institutions, Angel Gurría and Benita Ferrero-Waldner, respectively.

The seminar was held within the framework of the OECD's Week for Development. The event counted with the support of the European Commission Programme EUROsociAL, which, according to Ferrero-Waldner's judgment, marks the beginning of cooperation between institutions for the benefit of the strategic bi-regional partnership.

President Humala defended in his speech the links between Latin America and Europe, but also with the Asia Pacific Forum, while the region-he said-has great potential and it needs to keep growing.

He foreseen that the "golden decade" is about to arrive to the region, although to achieve it "will require investment in infrastructures and a more inclusive and sustainable development," he confirmed.

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## Promoting Young Researchers

**EU-LATIN AMERICA COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: The Contribution of *ALFA Puentes* & *ALFA Tuning* to the Creation of the EU-LAC Common Higher Education Area**

**By Simone Carvalho de Azevedo Gonçalves, Hertie School of Governance, Germany**

### *Executive Summary*

The EU-Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Common Higher Education Area was created in 2002 by heads of states from the EU (27 countries) and Latin America and the Caribbean (33 countries). Although this common space does not yet exist, there have been bi-regional programs to enhance its development. Since the ALFA program is the main instrument used by the European Commission for the creation of the common space, this research investigates to what extent ALFA projects have contributed to the creation of the EU-LAC Common Higher Education Area. The thesis compares the European and the Latin American higher education systems. It then examines the potentials and challenges for international cooperation in higher education, followed by the rationale for EU-Latin America cooperation in higher education. The research analyzes two ALFA projects as case studies: ALFA Puentes and ALFA Tuning. The findings show that both have significantly contributed to the creation of a common higher education area within Latin America, and between this region and the EU. Based on their best practices, the thesis provides policy recommendations for the implementation of Erasmus +, the new EU program in the area of education, training, youth and sports to be implemented in 2014-2020. The study also offers general recommendations for the creation of the EU-LAC Common Higher Education Area, concluding with three prospective scenarios.

[Read the full paper here...](#)

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## **TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A EURO-LATIN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA**

**By Vanessa Hewel, Salamanca University, Spain**

In this working-paper PHD-candidate Hewel discusses different mechanisms of European-LAC cooperation in higher education, arguing that for better efficiency synergies between them ought to be created.

[Read the full paper here...](#)

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## **The EU-LAC Foundation launches Online Forum: The Future of the EU - LAC Relations**

The on-line consultation is structured in thematic sections.

The first section, which relates to the situation and [prospects of the bi-regional Strategic Partnership](#), will raise questions about its pertinence, relevance, efficacy, strategic sense, and its partners and their role as regional and global actors.

The second section will deal with the main challenges affecting both regions and the bi-regional relationship itself:

a) ["Discomfort in Democracy"](#)

This section deals with the growing "discomfort in democracy" in both regions, which reflects a crisis of expectations vis-à-vis unsatisfied social demands, as much as in governance as in social cohesion.

b) [Changes in Regional Integration and bi-regional relations](#)

In this section, we discuss changes in regional integration and regionalism, which affect the role of both regions as regional and global actors, and their interregional relationship.

c) ["Mega-Regional" Trade Agreements \(TTP and TTIP\) and new Geopolitical Alignments](#)

This section debates demands for productive modernisation and international reinsertion in a world in which the geo-economic centre of gravity is shifting, and in which new "mega-regional" agreements arise, together with new coalitions between both advanced and emerging states.

d) [The Multilateral Agenda](#)

In this section, we focus on the multilateral agenda, which between 2015 and 2016 will deal with matters as decisive as the setting of "post-2015" global development goals, the negotiation of an ambitious agreement on climate change, and the global drugs problem.

**The on-line consultation is open from 22 September  
to 10 October 2014.**

**[Participate now and make your voice heard!](#)**

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