



# EU-LAC PARTNERSHIP

The European Union (EU) and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are essential partners in today's challenging global context. The two regions have developed one of the **densest networks of association, trade, political and cooperation agreements**, between the EU and 27 of the 33 LAC countries. Under **Global Gateway**, and acting as Team Europe, the EU aims to boost smart, clean, and secure investments in physical sustainable infrastructure in the areas of digital, climate and energy or transport and also to promote enabling operating environments. This includes regulatory frameworks and investments in people in areas such as education, research, and health.

The EU is giving new **impetus to the bi-regional partnership** with a forward-looking and positive agenda, including the EU and its Member States' renewed high-level political dialogue with the **Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)**. The EU-CELAC Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers in Buenos Aires on 27 October 2022 paves the way towards a bi-regional Summit in 2023.

## TRADE

<p><b>TRADE PARTNERS</b></p> <p><b>EU-LAC TOTAL TRADE IN GOODS:</b></p> <p><b>€185 Bn</b> IN 2008    <b>€218.1 Bn</b> IN 2021</p>	<p>THE EU IS THE <b>LARGEST INVESTOR</b> IN LAC REGION</p> <p><b>EU FDI STOCK IN THE LAC</b></p> <p>IN 2007 <b>€253.1 Bn</b></p> <p>IN 2020 <b>€687.5 Bn</b></p> <p><b>LAC FDI STOCK IN THE EU</b></p> <p>IN 2007 <b>€74.6 Bn</b></p> <p>IN 2020 <b>€137.8 Bn</b></p> <p>Source EUROSTAT</p>	<p>TOTAL EU-LAC TRADE IN SERVICES IN 2020 <b>€105.2 BILLION</b></p> <p><b>MAIN TRADED SERVICES:</b></p>

## Global Gateway FLAGSHIPS FOR OUR PARTNERSHIP

The EU is a leading provider of funding for sustainable and inclusive development to **LAC** countries, allocating **around €3.4 billion** for bilateral and regional programmes under NDICI-Global Europe for 2021-2027. **For the first time, the LAC region will also have access to the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+)**. Important contributions from EU Member States will complement these instruments. The EU and LAC are joining forces to cooperate on critical areas such as:

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES	GREEN TRANSITION	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION
SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY	DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, SECURITY AND MIGRATION	

### THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK'S PROJECTS



The **European Investment Bank (EIB)**, the EU bank, has the mission to promote climate action, adaptation and environmental sustainability in LAC. In 2021, the Bank provided **€742 million** for 11 projects in LAC. This included loans to private sector project developers in the renewable energy sector totalling €315 million. The EIB has so far invested over **€13.4 billion** in the region.



Global Gateway

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## GREEN TRANSITIONS

The EU and LAC countries are **working together towards greener and more sustainable societies**. The EU's flagship programme **EUROCLIMA+** has been supporting green, climate and environmental action for 10 years together with partner countries, EU Member State and UN Agencies – recently expanded to the Caribbean. The EU and several LAC countries are founding members of the **Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)**. A regional Team Europe Initiative is being prepared on the **Amazon Basin**.



## SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES

The EU is supporting regional efforts after the COVID pandemic towards a **more sustainable and socially inclusive economic model in LAC**. The implementation of EU-LAC trade and association agreements is also helping in this respect.



## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The regional programme **EUROsocial+** supported more than **300 policy actions engaging nearly 650 institutions** from the EU and LAC in three policy areas: gender equality, good governance and social policies. The EU-LAC partnership on local manufacturing of vaccines, medicines and other health technologies, and strengthening **health systems resilience** will further enhance social, economic and scientific ties between the two regions.



## RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The EU and CELAC have launched a **Joint Roadmap for intensifying research cooperation** in areas of strategic importance to both regions. The new Horizon Europe programme is open to LAC organisations and funds projects that bring together excellent research ideas. Since 2014, **LAC researchers have participated in 488 projects**, which received a **contribution of €1.6 billion** (over €62 million assigned directly to LAC scientists). Examples: developing **affordable 3G coverage** for isolated villages in the Amazon; or helping to **conserve Andean crop diversity**. **The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions** have so far attracted **3446 researchers and staff from LAC**, while 1665 fellows were hosted by organisations in LAC countries.



## CITIZEN SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW

The EU and LAC have a decade long cooperation in the **fight against drugs**, through the COPOLAD programme and the EU-CELAC Drugs Mechanism. The EU contributes to **security and justice** in LAC through various programmes: **EL PACCTO supports the fight against transnational organised crime**; the Global Illicit Flows Programme addresses trans-regional trafficking while EUROFRONT supports Integrated Border Management (IBM). A Team Europe Initiative on Justice and Security in LAC has been launched in May.



## EDUCATION & PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

**More than one third of LAC students who want to study abroad come to the EU**. The Erasmus+ programme has facilitated more than **16000 students** and staff exchanges between the EU and LAC countries since 2015. **Over six million people from EU and LAC countries live and work across the Atlantic**, well integrated in their host countries and the economies to which they contribute. Citizens from most LAC countries can enter the EU without a visa.



## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Since Summer 2021, the **EU and LAC** are directly **linked through the 6,000 km high-speed submarine cable EllaLink**, cofunded by the EU as part of the BELLA network. Its terrestrial links **connect around 12,000 research and education institutions and 65 million people**. The launch of an EU-LAC Digital Alliance for a human-centred digital transformation is foreseen in 2023, with the objective to further align policies, consolidate digital connectivity and **facilitate business partnerships for innovative digital solutions**.



EU-LAC Foundation  
Fundación EU-LAC

## EU-LAC FOUNDATION

An international organisation, open to over 60 countries from the two regions, the EU-LAC Foundation contributes since 2011 to the strengthening of the bi-regional partnership by **working with governments, business, academic and other civil society actors**.