

EU Policy and Outreach Partnership: Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean

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Countries Involved

Australia (AUS)	Austria (AUT)	Belarus (BLR)
Belgium (BEL)	Brazil (BRA)	Brunei Darussalam (BRN)
Canada (CAN)	Chile (CHL)	China (CHN)
Colombia (COL)	Costa Rica (CRI)	Cuba (CUB)
Denmark (DNK)	Ecuador (ECU)	Finland (FIN)
France (FRA)	Germany (DEU)	Greenland (GRL)
Iceland (ISL)	India (IND)	Indonesia (IDN)
Iran, Islamic Republic of (IRN)	Ireland (IRL)	Italy (ITA)
Japan (JPN)	Korea, Republic of (KOR)	Malaysia (MYS)

Mexico (MEX)	Mongolia (MNG)	Netherlands (NLD)
New Zealand (NZL)	Norway (NOR)	Peru (PER)
Philippines (PHL)	Russian Federation (RUS)	Singapore (SGP)
South Africa (ZAF)	Spain (ESP)	Sweden (SWE)
Thailand (THA)	United States (USA)	Viet Nam (VNM)

Executive Summary

The EU Policy and Outreach Partnership Instrument (PI), established in 2014, is a global tool designed to advance EU strategic interests and values through partnerships with third countries, including Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. For 2018-2020, the PI focuses on four main areas: trade and economic diplomacy, environment/climate/energy, peace and security, and digital/global health, integrating cross-cutting themes such as multilateralism, EU values, resilience, and innovation. The PI supports EU foreign policy by fostering bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation, enhancing market access for EU businesses (especially SMEs), and promoting public and cultural diplomacy. With a remaining budget of €461 million for 2018-2020, the PI emphasizes flexibility, rapid response to emerging priorities, and complementarity with other EU instruments. The strategy aims to strengthen the EU's global role, support sustainable development, and build alliances to address global challenges.

Taxonomies

Themes

- **Digital & Technological Partnerships** (Regional & International Cooperation)
- **EU-LAC Digital Alliance** (Regional & International Cooperation)
- **Bi-regional Cooperation** (Regional & International Cooperation)
- **Global Digital Cooperation** (Regional & International Cooperation)
- **Multilateralism** (Regional & International Cooperation) - Relevance: 1.0

Justification: Multilateralism is central to the document's main message, underpinning the EU's approach to global challenges, alliance-building, and the rules-based international order. The document dedicates significant content to the importance of multilateral partnerships, regional alliances (e.g., CELAC, ASEAN), and the EU's role in shaping global governance. It is strategically vital as it frames the EU's external action, objectives, and the Partnership Instrument's rationale.

- **EU-CELAC Digital Partnership** (Regional & International Cooperation)
- **Digital Agenda** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Policy** (Digital Transformation & Strategy) - Relevance: 0.9

Justification: Digital policy—including digital trade, digital governance, and the digital single market—is highlighted as a major intervention area and strategic priority. The document discusses the EU's leadership in digital transformation, international digital cooperation, and the importance of digital issues in trade, security, and societal development. This theme is closely tied to the EU's objectives of innovation, competitiveness, and global influence.

- **Digital Trade** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Platforms** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Infrastructure** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Economy** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)

- **Tech-Driven Solutions** (Technology & Innovation)
- **ICT Innovation** (Technology & Innovation)
- **Cloud Computing** (Technology & Innovation)
- **Artificial Intelligence** (Technology & Innovation)
- **Technology Regulations** (Technology & Innovation)
- **AI Ethics** (Technology & Innovation)
- **Digital Governance** (Data & Governance)
- **Internet Governance** (Data & Governance)
- **Cybersecurity** (Data & Governance)
- **Data Protection** (Data & Governance)
- **Digital Rights** (Data & Governance)
- **Digital Inclusion** (Inclusion & Social Development)
- **Connectivity** (Inclusion & Social Development)
- **Digital Skills Development** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Gender Equality in Tech** (Inclusion & Social Development)
- **Trade and Economic Diplomacy** (Regional & International Cooperation) - Relevance: 0.95
Justification: Trade and economic diplomacy is a core priority area, with extensive content on boosting trade, investment, and business opportunities for EU companies, especially SMEs. The document details objectives, actions, and expected outcomes related to market access, regulatory cooperation, and support for EU trade agreements. This theme is strategically important for the EU's global competitiveness and is directly linked to the Partnership Instrument's key objectives.

Actors

- **EU Delegations** (Political Actors)
- **Community of Latin American and Caribbean States** (Political Actors)
- **Southern Common Market** (Political Actors)
- **Pacific Alliance** (Political Actors)
- **United Nations** (Political Actors)
- **European Council** (Political Actors)
- **Universities** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Academic Institutions** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Researchers** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Innovators** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **European Institute of Innovation and Technology** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Digital Innovation Hubs** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Knowledge and Innovation Communities** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development** (Political Actors)
- **World Bank** (Economic Actors)
- **Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean** (Economic Actors)
- **Central American Bank for Economic Integration** (Economic Actors)
- **Inter-American Development Bank** (Economic Actors)
- **Private Sector Representatives** (Economic Actors)
- **Industry Actors** (Economic Actors)
- **ICT Companies** (Economic Actors)
- **Digital Companies** (Economic Actors)
- **Telecommunication Companies** (Economic Actors)
- **Research Funding Organisations** (Economic Actors)
- **Civil Society Organisations** (Civil Society Actors)
- **Non-governmental Institutions** (Civil Society Actors)
- **European Union** (Political Actors) - Relevance: 1.0

Justification: The European Union is the central actor throughout the document, as the Partnership Instrument is an EU initiative designed to advance EU interests, values, and external action globally. The EU is repeatedly referenced as the main decision-maker, implementer, and beneficiary of the policies, strategies, and funding described. All key objectives, priorities, and actions revolve around the EU's role as a global actor.

- **European Commission** (Political Actors) - Relevance: 0.9

Justification: The European Commission is the primary executive body responsible for designing, managing, and implementing the Partnership Instrument and related programmes. It is frequently mentioned as the initiator of proposals, the coordinator of internal EU processes, and the authority overseeing the allocation of funds and strategic direction. Its influence is critical in shaping and executing the main topics discussed.

- **EU Member States** (Political Actors) - Relevance: 0.8

Justification: EU Member States are key stakeholders and active participants in the implementation of the Partnership Instrument. They contribute resources, expertise (e.g., through TAIX), and are involved in decision-making and project execution. Their cooperation is essential for the success of the EU's external action, and they are repeatedly referenced as partners in both policy and practical terms.

Beneficiary Groups

- **Civil Society Organizations** (Civil Society / NGOs)
- **Companies** (SMEs / Businesses)
- **Small and Medium Enterprises** (SMEs / Businesses)
- **Women in Tech** (Women & Girls)
- **Youth** (Students & Youth)

Additional Beneficiary Groups

- woman
- company
- SME
- youth
- civil society organisation

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- SDG 1: No Poverty
- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 14: Life Below Water
- SDG 15: Life on Land
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

EU Policy Alignments

- Digital Decade
- Global Gateway
- Horizon Europe
- NDICI-Global Europe

Commitments

Commitment 1

The remaining financial envelope for the Partnership Instrument for the period 2018-2020 will be EUR 461 million.

Details:

- The remaining financial envelope for the Partnership Instrument for the period 2018-2020 will be EUR 461 million. (Type: Financed)

Commitment 2

A reserve of EUR 20 million will be maintained for the period 2018-2020 to allow swift and flexible responses to emerging policy objectives or unforeseen challenges.

Details:

- A reserve of EUR 20 million will be maintained for the period 2018-2020 to allow swift and flexible responses to emerging policy objectives or unforeseen challenges. (Type: Financed)

Commitment 3

The indicative financial allocations for the Americas region for 2018-2020 are EUR 281 million (as per the new proposed MIP).

Details:

- The indicative financial allocations for the Americas region for 2018-2020 are EUR 281 million (as per the new proposed MIP). (Type: Financed)

Commitment 4

The indicative financial allocations for Asia & the Pacific for 2018-2020 are EUR 390 million (as per the new proposed MIP).

Details:

- The indicative financial allocations for Asia & the Pacific for 2018-2020 are EUR 390 million (as per the new proposed MIP). (Type: Financed)

Commitment 5

The indicative financial allocations for Russia, Central Asia and the Arctic for 2018-2020 are EUR 48 million (as per the new proposed MIP).

Details:

- The indicative financial allocations for Russia, Central Asia and the Arctic for 2018-2020 are EUR 48 million (as per the new proposed MIP). (Type: Financed)

Commitment 6

The indicative financial allocations for Gulf countries for 2018-2020 are EUR 23 million (as per the new proposed MIP).

Details:

- The indicative financial allocations for Gulf countries for 2018-2020 are EUR 23 million (as per the new proposed MIP). (Type: Financed)

Commitment 7

The indicative financial allocations for Multicountry/Multilateral/Global actions for 2018-2020 are EUR 160 million (as per the new proposed MIP).

Details:

- The indicative financial allocations for Multicountry/Multilateral/Global actions for 2018-2020 are EUR 160 million (as per the new proposed MIP). (Type: Financed)

Commitment 8

The total operational appropriations for the Partnership Instrument for 2014-2020 are EUR 922.2 million.

Details:

- The total operational appropriations for the Partnership Instrument for 2014-2020 are EUR 922.2 million. (Type: Financed)

Commitment 9

The total administrative support for the Partnership Instrument for 2014-2020 is EUR 38.2 million.

Details:

- The total administrative support for the Partnership Instrument for 2014-2020 is EUR 38.2 million. (Type: Financed)

Commitment 10

The grand total for the Partnership Instrument Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2014-2020 is EUR 960.4 million.

Details:

- The grand total for the Partnership Instrument Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2014-2020 is EUR 960.4 million. (Type: Financed)

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

KPI: Academic Mobility and Mutual Recognition

Description:	To promote, through such mobility, transparency, mutual recognition of qualifications and periods of study, research and training, and portability of credits, as well as improving mutual understanding of issues relevant to relations between the EU and the partner countries;
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Promote transparency, mutual recognition of qualifications, and portability of credits through academic mobility
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Timeframe:	2018-2020
Measurement Method:	Number of mobility actions, recognition agreements, and participant feedback
Responsible Entity:	European Commission, Erasmus+ Programme
Sector:	Education/Academic Cooperation

KPI: Advanced Trade and Investment Agreement Processes

Description:	Number of processes related to the negotiation, implementation or enforcement of EU trade and investment agreements with partner countries which have been advanced;
Type:	quantitative
Target Description:	Increase the number of processes related to negotiation, implementation, or enforcement of EU trade and investment agreements
Unit:	processes
Timeframe:	2018-2020
Measurement Method:	Process count and progress tracking
Responsible Entity:	European Commission, DG Trade
Sector:	Trade and Investment

KPI: Financial Allocation for 2018-2020

Description:	Following implementation of the Partnership Instrument over the period 2014-17 which consumed about 52% of the overall budget of EUR 960.4 million for the MFF period 2014-2020, the remaining financial envelope for the period 2018-20 will be EUR 461 million.
Type:	quantitative
Target Value:	461.0
Target Description:	Allocate EUR 461 million for Partnership Instrument activities in 2018-2020
Unit:	million EUR
Timeframe:	2018-2020
Measurement Method:	Budget allocation and expenditure tracking
Responsible Entity:	European Commission
Sector:	Multi-sector/External Action

KPI: International Digital Policy Promotion

Description:	Support for the international dimension of the EU's Digital Policy Agenda with key partner countries by promoting the EU values on the internet governance and by working with third countries to improve international trade conditions for digital goods and services, including with regard to intellectual property rights;
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Promote EU digital policy values and improve international trade conditions for digital goods and services
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Timeframe:	2018-2020
Measurement Method:	Policy dialogues, agreements, and adoption of standards
Responsible Entity:	European Commission, DG CONNECT
Sector:	Digital Economy

KPI: Number of Partnership Instrument Actions Implemented

Description:	So far, 98 actions have been financed under the PSF and 59 actions under TAIEX, with more in the pipeline. Statistics (July 2017) for the total of 246 Partnership Instrument actions (standalone, PSF and TAIEX) are presented in figures below.
Type:	quantitative
Target Value:	246.0
Target Description:	Implement 246 Partnership Instrument actions (standalone, PSF, TAIEX) by July 2017
Unit:	actions
Timeframe:	by July 2017
Measurement Method:	Action/project count
Responsible Entity:	European Commission
Sector:	Multi-sector/External Action

KPI: Paris Agreement Implementation Support

Description:	Fostering the implementation of the Paris Agreement and other multilateral and regional climate measures amongst major economies and key partner countries, including with regard to mitigation policy instruments, mid-century strategies, monitoring and reporting and adaptation planning.
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Foster implementation of the Paris Agreement and related climate measures among major economies and key partner countries
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Timeframe:	2018-2020
Measurement Method:	Assessment of policy dialogues, adoption of measures, and progress reports
Responsible Entity:	European Commission, EU Delegations
Sector:	Climate and Energy

KPI: Positive Perception Change from Outreach Events

Description:	Percentage of participants targeted by outreach and advocacy events who acknowledge a positive change in their perception of the EU and/or international policies and standards;
Type:	quantitative
Target Description:	Increase the percentage of participants in outreach events who report a positive change in perception of the EU
Unit:	percentage
Timeframe:	2018-2020
Measurement Method:	Post-event participant surveys
Responsible Entity:	European Commission, EU Delegations
Sector:	Public Diplomacy

KPI: Reserve Fund Allocation

Description:	A small proportion (EUR 20 million) of the budget will remain unallocated in the form of a reserve in order to allow swift and flexible responses to emerging policy objectives in external relations, or to deal with unforeseen challenges.
Type:	quantitative
Target Value:	20.0
Target Description:	Maintain EUR 20 million as a reserve for unprogrammed funds
Unit:	million EUR
Timeframe:	2018-2020
Measurement Method:	Budget allocation and reserve tracking
Responsible Entity:	European Commission
Sector:	Multi-sector/External Action

KPI: Sustainable Urbanisation Initiatives

Description:	To support a number of flagship initiatives such as a “sustainable urbanisation” initiative focusing on sustainable, low carbon and low emission, green and resource and energy efficient growth, sustainable mobility solutions, and sustainable management of water and waste involving major cities in middle income countries, and Clean Energy Centres and/or Clean Technology and Innovation Actions in key partner countries;
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Support flagship sustainable urbanisation initiatives and Clean Energy/Technology Centres in key partner countries
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Timeframe:	2018-2020
Measurement Method:	Initiative/project establishment and implementation
Responsible Entity:	European Commission, EU Delegations
Sector:	Urban Development, Energy, Environment

KPI: Trade and Investment Agreement Implementation

Description:	Support for the implementation and negotiation of EU trade and investment agreements
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Support systematic implementation and negotiation of EU trade and investment agreements with partner countries
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Timeframe:	2018-2020
Measurement Method:	Number and progress of agreements supported
Responsible Entity:	European Commission, DG Trade
Sector:	Trade and Investment

Practical Applications

Application 1:

Implementation of the Partnership Instrument (PI) as a global EU funding mechanism since 2014, supporting EU strategic interests through standalone actions, rapid-response tools (Policy Support Facility - PSF, and Technical Assistance and Information Exchange - TAiEX), and public diplomacy

activities.

Application 2:

Active funding and operation of 246 PI actions (as of July 2017), including 98 under PSF and 59 under TAIEX, with more in the pipeline.

Application 3:

Ongoing support for the negotiation, implementation, and updating of EU trade and investment agreements with partner countries, including FTAs and Association Agreements (e.g., with Mexico, Chile, Mercosur, Central America, and the Caribbean).

Application 4:

Established frameworks for cooperation and political and trade relations, such as the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement with Cuba, the Association Agreement in Central America, and the Economic Partnership Agreement with the Caribbean.

Application 5:

Implementation of the EU-CELAC Joint Action Plan (2015) to advance dialogue and cooperation in areas of mutual interest between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Application 6:

Funding and support for public and cultural diplomacy initiatives, including the Jean Monnet Centres, Erasmus+ international credit mobility and joint masters, and targeted outreach to academics, students, civil society, and cultural operators.

Application 7:

Support for the international dimension of the Erasmus+ programme, enabling student and staff mobility, academic recognition, and higher education partnerships with third countries.

Application 8:

Ongoing support for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through policy dialogues, pilot projects, and technical assistance in climate, energy, and sustainable urbanisation.

Application 9:

Promotion and support of circular economy initiatives, resource efficiency, and environmental protection in partner countries, including through dedicated actions, platforms, and regulatory cooperation in FTAs.

Application 10:

Support for migration management and mobility cooperation with partner countries, in line with the European Agenda on Migration and the Partnership Framework with third countries.

Application 11:

Implementation of targeted business support programmes for EU companies, especially SMEs, to improve market access and competitiveness in challenging markets, particularly in Asia and Latin America, leveraging the Enterprise Europe Network and COSME programme structures.

Application 12:

Ongoing support for the development and implementation of digital policy frameworks, including cooperation on cybersecurity, digital governance, and the international dimension of the EU Digital Single Market.

Application 13:

Active engagement in multilateral and regional fora (e.g., UN, G7, G20, WTO, CELAC) to promote EU interests, influence international agendas, and support the implementation of global agreements.

Application 14:

Maintenance of a financial reserve within the PI to allow for swift and flexible responses to emerging policy objectives or unforeseen challenges in external relations.

Source Files

Filename	Type	Size	Upload Date
EU Policy and Outreach Partnership: Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean	PDF	1052.6 KB	2025-06-26