

Joint Declaration on a Digital Alliance between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean

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Document Information

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Human Reviewer:	cristina.bermeo
Countries Involved:	21 countries (see details below)

Countries Involved

Argentina (ARG)	Barbados (BRB)	Belize (BLZ)
Brazil (BRA)	Chile (CHL)	Colombia (COL)
Costa Rica (CRI)	Dominican Republic (DOM)	Ecuador (ECU)
El Salvador (SLV)	Guatemala (GTM)	Guyana (GUY)
Honduras (HND)	Jamaica (JAM)	Mexico (MEX)
Panama (PAN)	Paraguay (PRY)	Peru (PER)

Suriname (SUR)	Trinidad and Tobago (TTO)	Uruguay (URY)
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Executive Summary

The Joint Declaration on a Digital Alliance between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), signed on 17 July 2023, establishes an informal, values-based framework for digital cooperation. Open to all LAC countries and EU Member States, the Alliance aims to foster bi-regional dialogue and collaboration on digital policy, infrastructure, cybersecurity, data protection, artificial intelligence, digital skills, and innovation. It supports ongoing initiatives such as the BELLA programme and Copernicus Centres, and will develop a bi-regional Investment Agenda under the Global Gateway initiative. The Alliance is grounded in a human-centric vision, emphasizing universal human rights, inclusion, and sustainability. It prioritizes closing digital divides, promoting digital literacy, and ensuring secure, meaningful connectivity. Implementation includes regular high-level dialogues, stakeholder engagement, and flagship projects to enhance connectivity, data infrastructure, and digital innovation, with annual progress reviews.

Taxonomies

Themes

- **EU-LAC Digital Alliance (Regional & International Cooperation)** (Regional & International Cooperation) - Relevance: 1.0

Justification: The establishment and operation of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance is the central focus of the document. The majority of the content is dedicated to describing its purpose, structure, membership, and the framework for ongoing and future cooperation. It is the main vehicle for all other initiatives and objectives outlined in the declaration.

- **Digital Policy (Digital Transformation & Strategy)** (Digital Transformation & Strategy) - Relevance: 0.95

Justification: Digital policy dialogue, regulatory convergence, and the development of shared digital strategies are repeatedly emphasized as key objectives. The document details mechanisms for policy exchange, regulatory alignment, and the creation of a strategic framework, making digital policy central to the Alliance's mission and implementation.

- **Digital Inclusion (Inclusion & Social Development)** (Inclusion & Social Development) - Relevance: 0.9

Justification: Ensuring digital inclusion, closing digital divides, and promoting an inclusive digital society are highlighted as core values and commitments. The document dedicates significant content to social cohesion, gender and racial equality, universal connectivity, and the principle of leaving no one behind, making digital inclusion a strategic and ethical pillar of the Alliance.

- **EU-LAC Digital Alliance** (Regional & International Cooperation)
- **Bi-regional Cooperation** (Regional & International Cooperation)
- **Global Digital Cooperation** (Regional & International Cooperation)
- **Digital & Technological Partnerships** (Regional & International Cooperation)
- **Digital Agenda** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Acceleration** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Platforms** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Infrastructure** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Trade** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Policy** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Ecosystem** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)

- **Digital Investment** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Regulation** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Transitions** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Skills Development** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Economy** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Sustainability** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Artificial Intelligence** (Technology & Innovation)
- **Tech-Driven Solutions** (Technology & Innovation)
- **ICT Innovation** (Technology & Innovation)
- **Cloud Computing** (Technology & Innovation)
- **Innovation in Computing** (Technology & Innovation)
- **High-Performance Computing** (Technology & Innovation)
- **Data Governance** (Data & Governance)
- **Digital Rights** (Data & Governance)
- **Digital Governance** (Data & Governance)
- **Data Protection** (Data & Governance)
- **Cybersecurity** (Data & Governance)
- **Digital Access** (Data & Governance)
- **Digital Identity Management** (Data & Governance)
- **Internet Governance** (Data & Governance)
- **Digital Ethics** (Data & Governance)
- **E-Governance** (Data & Governance)
- **Digital Inclusion** (Inclusion & Social Development)
- **Social Cohesion** (Inclusion & Social Development)
- **Gender Equality in Tech** (Inclusion & Social Development)
- **Digital Education** (Inclusion & Social Development)
- **Connectivity** (Inclusion & Social Development)
- **Sustainable Digital Development** (Inclusion & Social Development)

Actors

- **European Union** (Political Actors) - Relevance: 1.0
Justification: The European Union is the primary initiator and co-leader of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, is mentioned throughout the text, and is central to all key initiatives, funding, and policy frameworks discussed. Its influence is foundational to the Alliance's existence, direction, and implementation.
- **EU-LAC Digital Alliance** (Research and Innovation Actors) - Relevance: 0.95
Justification: The EU-LAC Digital Alliance is the main subject of the document, serving as the framework for cooperation, dialogue, and implementation of digital initiatives between the EU and LAC countries. It is the platform through which all major activities, dialogues, and investments are coordinated.
- **EU Member States** (Political Actors) - Relevance: 0.9
Justification: EU Member States are repeatedly referenced as key participants in the Alliance, both individually and as part of 'Team Europe.' They are involved in decision-making, funding, and implementation of digital projects, and their agencies and development institutions play a significant role in the Alliance's activities.
- **Governments** (Political Actors)
- **Digital for Development Hub** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Universities** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Academic Institutions** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Research Performing Organisations** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **LAC Space Agencies** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Private Sector Representatives** (Economic Actors)

- **Digital Companies** (Economic Actors)
- **ICT Companies** (Economic Actors)
- **Telecommunication Companies** (Economic Actors)
- **Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean** (Economic Actors)
- **Non-governmental Institutions** (Civil Society Actors)
- **Civil Society Organisations** (Civil Society Actors)
- **Digital Training and Education Providers** (Civil Society Actors)
- **Digital Literacy Initiatives** (Civil Society Actors)

Beneficiary Groups

- **Citizens** (General Citizens / Consumers)
- **Small and Medium Enterprises** (SMEs / Businesses)
- **Women in Tech** (Women & Girls)
- **Youth** (Students & Youth)

Additional Beneficiary Groups

- citizen
- woman
- SME
- youth
- girl

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- 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 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

EU Policy Alignments

- Digital Decade
- EU Cyber Strategy
- Global Gateway
- NDICI-Global Europe

Commitments

Commitment 1

In 2023, cooperation will include the implementation of a regional Copernicus Strategy including two regional Copernicus data centres in Panama and Chile.

Details:

- In 2023, cooperation will include the implementation of a regional Copernicus Strategy including two regional Copernicus data centres in Panama and Chile. (Type: Implemented)

Commitment 2

In 2023, the establishment of an EU-LAC Digital Accelerator aiming to facilitate and accelerate at least 40 joint ventures for bi-regional innovation and digital transformation.

Details:

- In 2023, the establishment of an EU-LAC Digital Accelerator aiming to facilitate and accelerate at least 40 joint ventures for bi-regional innovation and digital transformation. (Type: Programmatic)

Commitment 3

The extension of the BELLA fibre-optic cable to interested countries in 2023. (Note: While the extension itself is a concrete action, no specific number of countries or length is provided.)

Details:

- The extension of the BELLA fibre-optic cable to interested countries in 2023. (Note: While the extension itself is a concrete action, no specific number of countries or length is provided.) (Type: Implemented)

Commitment 4

Progress will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Details:

- Progress will be reviewed on an annual basis. (Type: Declarative)

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

KPI: Annual Progress Review

Description:	We will review progress on an annual basis.
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Conduct annual reviews of progress on Digital Alliance initiatives
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Timeframe:	Annually
Measurement Method:	Publication of annual progress reports

Responsible Entity:	EU-LAC Digital Alliance partners
Sector:	Governance/Monitoring & Evaluation

KPI: BELLA Fibre-optic Cable Extension

Description:	the extension of the BELLA fibre-optic cable to interested countries, building secure digital backbone connectivity and bringing the research communities of the EU and LAC closer together
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Extend BELLA fibre-optic cable to additional LAC countries to enhance digital backbone connectivity
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Timeframe:	2023
Measurement Method:	Completion of cable extension and operational status
Responsible Entity:	EU, LAC governments, BELLA programme
Sector:	Digital Infrastructure/Research Networks

KPI: Basic Digital Competence Development

Description:	develop basic digital competences of all citizens so that they can engage with and access digital technologies in a safe, confident, critical and responsible manner, with a special focus on women and girls
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Develop basic digital skills for all citizens, with a focus on women and girls
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Measurement Method:	Assessment of digital skills programs and participation rates
Responsible Entity:	National governments, education ministries, EU-LAC Digital Alliance
Sector:	Digital Skills/Education

KPI: Bi-regional Digital Investment Agenda Development

Description:	The Alliance will also serve as a forum for developing a bi-regional Investment Agenda in the digital domain underpinned by the Global Gateway initiative, among other sources of funding.
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Develop a joint EU-LAC investment agenda for digital projects
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Measurement Method:	Publication and adoption of the investment agenda
Responsible Entity:	EU-LAC Digital Alliance partners
Sector:	Digital Investment

KPI: EU-LAC Digital Accelerator Joint Ventures

Description:	the establishment of an EU-LAC Digital Accelerator aiming to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration between EU and LAC corporations, SMEs and innovative start-ups. The objective is to facilitate and accelerate at least 40 joint ventures for bi-regional innovation and digital transformation.
Type:	quantitative
Target Value:	40.0
Target Description:	Facilitate and accelerate at least 40 joint ventures for bi-regional innovation and digital transformation
Unit:	joint ventures
Measurement Method:	Number of joint ventures established through the Accelerator
Responsible Entity:	EU-LAC Digital Accelerator, EU-LAC Digital Alliance
Sector:	Innovation/Entrepreneurship

KPI: EU-LAC Digital Alliance Establishment

Description:	establishing an EU-LAC Digital Alliance
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Establish a formal digital cooperation framework between the EU and LAC countries
Unit:	qualitative milestone

Timeframe:	2023
Measurement Method:	Official announcement and operationalization of the Alliance
Responsible Entity:	EU, LAC governments
Sector:	Digital Policy/International Cooperation

KPI: Online Disinformation Cooperation

Description:	cooperate in the fight against online disinformation
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Establish cooperation mechanisms to combat online disinformation
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Measurement Method:	Implementation of joint actions, campaigns, or frameworks
Responsible Entity:	EU-LAC Digital Alliance partners, relevant agencies
Sector:	Cybersecurity/Information Integrity

KPI: Regional Copernicus Data Centres Implementation

Description:	the implementation of a regional Copernicus Strategy including two regional Copernicus data centres in Panama and Chile
Type:	quantitative
Target Value:	2.0
Target Description:	Establish two regional Copernicus data centres in Panama and Chile
Unit:	data centres
Timeframe:	2023
Measurement Method:	Operational status of data centres
Responsible Entity:	EU, LAC governments, Copernicus programme
Sector:	Space/Earth Observation/Data Infrastructure

KPI: Regular High-Level Policy Dialogue

Description:	The partners of the Alliance will meet regularly at different levels, including a periodic High-Level Policy Dialogue, regulatory dialogue and other meetings at technical level as appropriate.
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Hold regular high-level and technical meetings for policy and regulatory dialogue
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Timeframe:	Ongoing, periodic
Measurement Method:	Number and frequency of meetings held
Responsible Entity:	EU-LAC Digital Alliance partners
Sector:	Digital Policy/International Cooperation

KPI: Universal Digital Connectivity

Description:	provide secure, universal, and meaningful digital connectivity to every citizen
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Achieve secure, universal, and meaningful digital connectivity for all citizens
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Measurement Method:	Connectivity coverage statistics and user access data
Responsible Entity:	National governments, telecom regulators, EU-LAC Digital Alliance
Sector:	Digital Infrastructure/Connectivity

Practical Applications

Application 1:

The BELLA programme: Ongoing EU-supported infrastructure in the LAC region, including the extension of the BELLA fibre-optic cable to interested countries to build secure digital backbone connectivity and connect research communities of the EU and LAC.

Application 2:

Copernicus Centres: Implementation of a regional Copernicus Strategy, including the establishment of two regional Copernicus data centres in Panama and Chile.

Application 3:

LAC Cyber Competence Centre: Active as part of the ongoing digital cooperation between the EU and LAC.

Application 4:

EL PAcCTO programme: Ongoing projects on cybercrime in the LAC region.

Application 5:

EU-LAC Digital Accelerator: Established to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration between EU and LAC corporations, SMEs, and innovative start-ups, with the objective to facilitate and accelerate at least 40 joint ventures for bi-regional innovation and digital transformation.

Application 6:

Periodic High-Level Policy Dialogue and regulatory dialogue: Regular meetings at different levels, including technical meetings, to exchange information, identify joint priorities, and reinforce/converge digital policy and regulatory frameworks (including data protection, cybersecurity, interoperability, AI, and emerging technologies).

Application 7:

Bi-regional Investment Agenda in the digital domain: Underpinned by the Global Gateway initiative and other funding sources, supporting digital projects agreed upon by the two regions.

Application 8:

Regional framework for dialogue: Brings together national and regional regulatory entities to promote convergence of digital policy and closing of digital gaps.

Application 9:

Participation of the LAC branch of the Digital4Development Hub: Ongoing involvement in the Alliance.

Application 10:

Cooperation with the Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE): The Alliance will explore and implement cooperation in space-related activities, including Copernicus Earth observation data and Galileo/EGNOS satellite navigation applications and services.

Source Files

Filename	Type	Size	Upload Date
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EU-LAC Joint Declaration on a Digital Alliance	PDF	300.8 KB	2025-06-25
EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Joint Declaration on a Digital Alliance	PDF	640.7 KB	2025-06-25

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