

## Road to 2023: D4D Hub in Action for EU-LAC Digital Cooperation

2nd High-level event of the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean

12 December 2022, Brussels and virtual

### Concept note

In a post pandemic world, digitalisation has become a top priority in the partnership between EU and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). In line with the EU Global Gateway and the 2022 Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean, the EU-LAC Ministerial Meeting on 14 December 2020 at the last EU-CELAC Ministerial Meeting on 27 October 2022, it was stressed the need to further strengthening cooperation to jointly promote a human-centred digital transformation. On the one hand, this reflects the important role of digital transformation in the context of post-pandemic recovery. And on the other hand, it comes as a recognition of how well placed EU and LAC are to strengthen their partnership on digital matters.

The political willingness and the strategic awareness of the importance to work together for greater impact, currently guides the work shaping the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, planned to be launched in March 2023. The prospects of the upcoming bi-regional Summit, foreseen in July 2023, fuel the ambitions to prepare concrete and actionable deliverables in the digital sphere. On 14 December 2021, under the Slovenian EU Council Presidency, the LAC branch of the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub was launched, putting forward an important platform to shape, steer and accelerate digital cooperation between EU and LAC.

One year after the launch, Slovenia, Spain, the European Commission and the D4D Hub Secretariat are jointly organising this multi-stakeholder event, to present the platform to the LAC partners, while at the same time seeking input from the participants from the region on the expectations, priorities and possible deliverables for the future joint digital agenda within the EU-LAC partnership. The discussion, shaped in the form of two parallel roundtable sessions, will focus on two topics: (i) the avenues to shape an EU-LAC approach to human-centred and inclusive digitalisation with the help of emerging technologies; and (ii) the opportunities in shaping the Global Gateway digital investment package for LAC.

The first session will explore how the EU and LAC could further consolidate a joint, human-centered and inclusive vision for the digital transformation through strengthened cooperation and dialogue. It will place a particular focus on emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, which carry transformative potential for economies and societies, but also bring certain risks. The discussion will center on how concretely EU and LAC partners can work together to shape an enabling environment for such a vision at global, regional and national level. It will look at (i) policy dialogue on global norms and national regulatory frameworks as well as (ii) cooperation in research and education as two important pillars of such an enabling environment.

The second session will focus on the upcoming Global Gateway digital investment package for LAC, recently announced by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. It will seek to obtain LAC partners' expectations on the package by discussing the opportunities and challenges the private sector faces in advancing digital economy in the region. The discussion will focus on how to boost investments and private sector cooperation. It will also look at possible ways to strengthen digital entrepreneurship and innovation and develop enabling ecosystems, policy frameworks as well as financing options.

Building on the operational approach characterising the D4D Hub, the discussions will seek to get concrete ideas and proposals from the participants, which will feed into the work ahead in preparing the bi-regional Summit.

The roundtables will be followed by a high-level session on political and strategic priorities in the area of digitalisation in the EU-LAC partnership for 2023 and beyond.