

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

Detailed programme

Venue: SI Permanent Representation (limited capacity) and online

15:00-15:30: **Arrival of participants**

15:30-15:45: **Opening remarks**

- H.E. Veronika Stabej, Ambassador for Science Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia
- Mr Iago Gil Aguado, Counsellor for Latin America and the Caribbean, Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union
- Ms Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director-General, INTPA – International Partnerships, European Commission (virtual participation)

15:45-16:00: **Presentation of the D4D Hub**

- Mr Félix Fernández-Shaw, Director for Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean, INTPA – International Partnerships, European Commission
- Mr Miguel González, Director, AECID training centre in Cartagena, Colombia (virtual participation)

16:10-17:40: **Roundtable A: Shaping an EU-LAC approach to human-centred and inclusive digitalisation: the role of emerging technologies**

- Roundtable facilitator: Mr Mark Urban, Director for International Cooperation and Communications, RedClara, Uruguay
- Introductory speakers:
 - H.E. Pedro Miguel da Costa e Silva, Ambassador of Brazil to the European Union
 - H.E. Symone Betton Nayo, Ambassador of Jamaica to the European Union (tbc)
 - Mr Olivier Bringer, Head of Unit for Policy Outreach and International Affairs, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission
 - Mr John Shawe-Taylor, Director, International Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence under the auspices of UNESCO (IRCAI) (virtual participation)

16:10:17:40: **Roundtable B: Building together a Global Gateway digital investment package for LAC**

- Roundtable facilitator: Ms Beatriz Navarro, Correspondent, La Vanguardia, Spain
- Introductory speakers:
 - H.E. Iván Ogando Lora, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the European Union (tbc)
 - Mr Félix Fernández-Shaw, Director for Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean, INTPA – International Partnerships, European Commission
 - Ms Mónica Conde Barragán, Vice-President of International Relations and Cooperation, Bogota Chamber of Commerce, Colombia (tbc)
 - Mr José Juan Haro, Director, Latam Public Policy and Wholesale Business, Telefónica Hispam

17:45-18:00: Wrap-up session: main take-aways from both roundtables

- Session A: Mr Mark Urban, Director for International Cooperation and Communications, RedClara, Uruguay
- Session B: Ms Beatriz Navarro, Correspondent, La Vanguardia, Spain

18:00-19:00: High-level session: EU-LAC digital cooperation ahead of the Summit

- H.E. Tanja Fajon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia
- H.E. José Manuel Albares Bueno, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain (tbc)
- H.E. Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Union (tbc)
- H.E. Janaina Tewaney, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama (virtual participation)
- H.E. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (virtual participation)

19:00-20:30: Reception, hosted by H.E. Tanja Fajon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia and H.E. José Manuel Albares Bueno, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain

The event will be moderated by Mr Thierry Barbé, Head of Unit for Science, Technology, Innovation and Digitalisation, INTPA – International Partnerships, European Commission.

Translation into Spanish and English will be provided.

Information on the roundtables sessions

Roundtable A: Shaping an EU-LAC approach to human-centred and inclusive digitalisation: the role of emerging technologies

Concept:

A human-centred and inclusive approach to digitalisation is at the heart of digitalisation policies in both EU and LAC, such as the Digital Agenda for Europe, the Global Gateway or the 2022 Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean. In the run-up to the launch of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance and the EU-CELAC Summit, this session will explore how the EU and LAC could further consolidate a joint, human-centred 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 concrete ways how EU and LAC partners can work together to shape an enabling environment for such a vision globally, regionally and nationally. 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.

Questions for the discussion:

- What are the main obstacles in advancing inclusive digital transition? How can emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, help bridge the digital gap?
- How can the EU-LAC dialogue and cooperation on policy development and regulatory frameworks be strengthened? Which avenues should be expanded and what tools are we lacking?
- How can cooperation in research and education further enhance a common vision for inclusive digitalisation, as well as ethical governance of emerging technologies?

Roundtable B: Building together a Global Gateway digital investment package for LAC

Concept:

This 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 countries of the region. The discussion will focus on identifying concrete areas to work on, instruments or incentives that could further be developed to foster 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.

Questions for the discussion:

- What are the opportunities and challenges the private sector faces in advancing digital economy in the region? What instruments or incentives could further be developed to better connect businesses on both sides and stimulate cooperation, including SMEs?
- Which are the concrete digitalization areas in LAC countries where sustainable investment will be needed in the next 5 years?
- How can EU and LAC cooperate further in strengthening digital entrepreneurship and innovation and in developing enabling ecosystems, policy frameworks as well as financing options?