**Press Release : Official launching of the LA-CoNGA physics project**

On June 26, a series of virtual sessions "Let's talk about advanced physics", organised by the Latin-American Alliance for Capacity buildiNG in Advanced Physics (***LA-CoNGA physics)*** project, will start. This series of webinars will allow university students, teachers, researchers, and university authorities to learn more about LA-CoNGA physics and its educational offer.

***LA-CoNGA physics*** is an ERASMUS+ project funded by the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. ***LA-CoNGA physics*** joins efforts between eleven universities in Latin America and Europe, as well as other academic and industrial partners, to create a unified one-year master program in Advanced Physics for students in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. The educational offer will be oriented towards high energy physics and complex systems and will rely on remote learning and collaborative open-access tools. It will include a curriculum oriented towards problem-solving with instrumentation laboratories and internships in research centers and industrial partners, both in Latin America and Europe.

The virtual sessions launching the project will take place every Friday for six weeks starting on June 26th. During the first session, the ***LA-CoNGA physics*** project will be introduced. The following sessions will discuss topics in High Energy Physics, complex systems, the peculiarities of data science, scientific instrumentation, and during the last virtual session, a career and opportunities discussion. For more details please visit the project website (<http://laconga.redclara.net/>).

According to José Ocariz, principal investigator of the LA-CoNGA physics project and senior professor at Université de Paris, examples from physics and industry will be used continuously in the curriculum of this proposal to illustrate practical applications. "We want students to master both the languages of science and industry properly," he said.

The local capacities that are intended to be developed are based on the collaborative international experience in High Energy Physics, in which great advances have been made in simulation and modeling, electronic and particle detectors, data acquisition, and data analysis. "This experience has allowed us to develop innovative techniques and technologies, which could contribute to other areas with a high social impact such as medical imaging, big data, electronics, open-access collaboration tools, to name a few," said Ocariz.

For Luis Núñez, representative of Colombia in LA-CoNGA physics and senior professor at the Universidad Industrial de Santander, this initiative constitutes a great effort to build a network of cutting-edge teaching laboratories with remotely operated equipment. "Students in Quito, Ibarra, or Caracas will use instruments from laboratories in Bogotá, Bucaramanga, or Lima (and vice versa). The teachers will collaborate with their colleagues from other countries, discussing possible experiment setups and analyzing the datasets of the measurements obtained in the different laboratories. We will take advantage of the homogeneous language and culture of our region to build this alliance together, '' he emphasized.

On the other hand, Reina Camacho Toro, deputy scientific coordinator of ***LA-CoNGA physics***, a researcher at the CNRS France and member of the ATLAS experiment, said that this project is a good opportunity to expand previous digital education experiences in the field of High Energy Physics to eight Latin American universities. As well as to include other fields such as complex systems and medical physics.

The higher education institutions that integrate LA-CoNGA physics are: Universidad Industrial de Santander (UIS) and Universidad Antonio Nariño (UAN), for Colombia; Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) and Universidad de Investigación de Tecnología Experimental Yachay (Yachay Tech), for Ecuador; Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM) and Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería (UNI), for Peru; Central University of Venezuela (UCV) and Universidad Simón Bolívar (USB), for Venezuela; Université de Paris, (UdP) and Université Paul Sabatier Toulouse III, for France; and the Technische Universität Dresden (TUD), for Germany. The project also has the support of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste , the German Electron Synchrotron (DESY), the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), the Institute of Research into the Fundamental Laws of the Universe (IRFU) and the Cooperación Latino Americana de Redes Avanzadas (RedCLARA). In addition the project has supporting industrial partners from Italy, Peru and Colombia.