

Paris, June 27, 2022

Object : Request of Project Extension**Reference number :** 610456-EPP-1-2019-1-FR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP CBHE LA-CoNGA physics

Dear Sir,

We hope this communication finds you well.

The LA-CoNGA physics project team, coordinated by Université Paris Cité, would like to officially request a one-year project extension until January 14th, 2024. The project ends on January 14th 2023, after three years of challenging and successful outcomes.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the original calendar but also allowed the project to reinforce the importance of its primary goals. The project is still aligned with the EU/LAC cooperation priorities of digital transformation and innovation in Higher Education Institutions in Latin America.

In 2020, the administrative, academic and equipment purchase activities were delayed, as the campuses were closed. Therefore, the first year of courses that started on January 18th, 2021 and finished on December 8th, 2021, did not follow the initial plan but had to be readapted to the conditions created by the pandemic. The first LA-CoNGA physics cohort was composed of approximately 50 students. In January 2022, the second cohort of 70 students started the courses with updated material thanks to the specialized equipment bought and installed in Latin America. This is the first year the activities are running as initially planned.

This one-year extension in 2023 is crucial for the effective consolidation of the sustainability of LA-CoNGA physics, as the project had an overall one-year delay with respect to the original planning, and it is only in 2022 that all activities and courses are benefitting from on-site access to the local campus and to the interconnected laboratories. To this extent, 2022 is the actual pilot year of the project.

Another main goal for 2023 is to pursue the development of capacity building through strategic partnerships among the institutions and active industrial partners, so that altogether, LA-CoNGA physics ensures the implementation of a sustainable international academic network.

For this one-year extension, no additional budget is being requested, as the funding for the proposed activities for 2023 are completely covered by a restructuration of unused mobility costs in 2020 and 2021.

We remain at your disposal for any further information you may require.

Thank you for your continuous support,

**Christine Clerici**
Présidente