**Faithfulness Score**: 100/100 - Excellent

# EU-LAC Digital Alliance Days: Key Collaborations and Future Initiatives for 2025 Summit

**Date**: 2023-11-27

**Location**: Colombia

## Executive Summary

The EU-LAC Digital Alliance Days, held from November 27-29, 2023, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, gathered over 150 senior representatives from Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union to enhance digital cooperation. Key discussions focused on five thematic areas: Artificial Intelligence, data governance, digital government, inclusive connectivity, and cybersecurity. Participants identified collaborative initiatives, including aligning cybersecurity frameworks, developing interoperable digital identity mechanisms, and promoting secure data flows. The event underscored a commitment to a human-centric digital transformation and marked a significant step towards the 2025 EU-CELAC Summit. Follow-up dialogues on cybersecurity and other digital issues are scheduled for 2024, reinforcing the partnership’s objectives under the Global Gateway initiative.

## Characteristics

* The EU-LAC Digital Alliance Days took place from November 27-29, 2023, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, gathering over 150 representatives from various sectors.
* Key discussions focused on digital cooperation, including AI, data governance, digital government, inclusive connectivity, and cybersecurity.
* Participants identified joint collaboration areas such as cybersecurity frameworks, inclusive connectivity strategies, and digital identity mechanisms.
* The event emphasized a human-centric approach to technology, aligning with the goals of the Global Gateway initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean.
* A follow-up dialogue on cybersecurity is scheduled for February 2024, with additional discussions on connectivity and digital inclusion planned for later in the year.

## Actors

| Category | Actors |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | 1. European Commission; 2. Spanish Agency for International Development (AECID); 7. German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); 8. EU Member States; 9. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries |
| Research and Innovation Actors | 3. Digital for Development (D4D) Hub |
| Government Officials | 4. Félix Fernández-Shaw; 5. Saul Kattan; 6. Miguel González Gullón |

## Main Themes

| Themes | Sub-category |
| --- | --- |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Agenda |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Policy |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Ecosystem |
| Technology & Innovation | Artificial Intelligence |
| Technology & Innovation; Data & Governance | Cybersecurity |
| Data & Governance | Data Governance |
| Data & Governance | Digital Identity Management |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Inclusion |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Connectivity |
| Regional & International Cooperation | EU-LAC Digital Alliance |
| Regional & International Cooperation | EU-CELAC Digital Partnership |
| Regional & International Cooperation | Bi-regional Cooperation |

### Main Themes Description

* **Event Overview**: The EU-LAC Digital Alliance Days took place from November 27-29, 2023, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, gathering over 150 representatives from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector to discuss digital cooperation.
* **Core Principle**: Emphasis on a human-centric approach to technology, articulated by key speakers, highlighting that technology should serve people.
* **High-Level Dialogues**: Five thematic discussions focused on:
  + Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  + Data governance
  + Digital government
  + Inclusive connectivity
  + Cybersecurity
* **Identified Areas for Collaboration**: Key areas for future cooperation included:
  + Alignment of cybersecurity frameworks
  + Innovative policies for inclusive and secure connectivity
  + Development of interoperable digital identity mechanisms
  + Ensuring free and safe data flows
  + Strategies to mitigate AI risks while leveraging its opportunities
* **Political Commitment**: The event underscored the political will of partner countries to enhance collaboration on digital issues through shared dialogue and initiatives.
* **Milestone for Bi-Regional Partnership**: Marked a significant step in strengthening the EU-LAC digital partnership, following a Joint Declaration at the third EU-CELAC Summit in July 2023, with a focus on the upcoming 2025 Summit in Colombia.
* **Future Dialogues**: Planned follow-up dialogues on cybersecurity, connectivity, digital inclusion, data governance, and e-governance throughout 2024, starting with a cybersecurity dialogue in February hosted by the Dominican Republic.
* **Global Gateway Initiative**: The EU-LAC Digital Alliance is part of the EU’s strategy to foster trusted and sustainable connections with Latin America and the Caribbean, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

## Practical Applications

* Co-organized the EU-LAC Digital Alliance Days in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, focusing on advancing digital cooperation between the EU and LAC regions.
* Established joint areas for collaboration including alignment of cybersecurity frameworks, implementation of inclusive and secure connectivity policies, development of interoperable digital identity mechanisms, and improved data flow strategies.
* Determined co-leading partnerships between the EU, EU Member States, and LAC countries in five thematic areas: AI, data governance, digital government, inclusive connectivity, and cybersecurity.
* Planned a follow-up dialogue on cybersecurity in February 2024 in the Dominican Republic, with additional dialogues on connectivity, digital inclusion, data governance, and e-governance scheduled for later in the year.
* The policy dialogue component of the TEI is co-financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

## Commitments

* A follow-up dialogue on cybersecurity will be hosted by the Dominican Republic in February 2024.
* Follow-up dialogues on connectivity and digital inclusion, data governance, and e-governance will take place later in 2024.
* The next EU-CELAC Summit is scheduled to be held in Colombia in 2025.
* No specific commitments identified regarding numerical targets, pledged funding amounts, specific percentage increases or reductions, or measurable goals with clear metrics.