

EU-LAC Digital Alliance - Policy Dialogues & High-Level Dialogue on Data Governance

Montevideo, Uruguay | 30 September - 1 October 2024

1. Background: EU-LAC Digital Alliance Policy Dialogues

The EU-LAC Digital Alliance Policy Dialogues constitute a structured bi-regional platform bringing together Team Europe and Latin American & Caribbean (LAC) partners to build consensus on priority digital policy areas. Under the Alliance, high-level dialogues focus on thematic pillars such as e-Governance, data governance, cybersecurity, connectivity and artificial intelligence, aiming to converge regulatory frameworks and foster a human-centric digital transformation across both regions.

The D4D Hub supports the implementation of these dialogues, ensuring a multi-stakeholder approach that includes governments, private sector, civil society and academia.

2. Event Overview: High-Level Policy Dialogue on Data Governance

Co-hosted by the European Union and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, the dialogue convened senior government officials and experts from 30 September to 1 October 2024 in Montevideo. It was co-facilitated by FIIAPP and key partners of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance.

Language: Spanish, English & Portuguese

Format: Multistakeholder plenary sessions and thematic working groups

3. Objectives

- Exchange best practices and regulatory approaches on:
 - Personal data protection
 - Role of independent data protection authorities
 - International data transfers
 - Nexus between AI and data
- Identify areas for bi-regional convergence ahead of the EU-CELAC Summit 2025
- Strengthen cooperation mechanisms under the Global Gateway Investment Agenda

4. Key Topics Discussed

- Harmonising data protection regulations to facilitate trusted cross-border data flows
- Governance models for data-driven AI systems, including accountability and transparency
- Interoperability standards and secure international data transfer frameworks
- Capacity building for data protection authorities and alignment with EU-LAC priorities

5. Participants

High-level representatives from EU Member States, Uruguay (host), other LAC countries, the European

Commission DG INTPA, data protection authorities, industry leaders, academia, and civil society organisations.

6. Outcomes & Commitments

- Agreement to draft a roadmap for regulatory convergence on data governance before mid-2025
- Recognition of data governance as a critical enabler for trusted AI and digital public services
- Commitment to launch capacity-building programmes for LAC data protection authorities with support from Team Europe instruments
- Guyana formally adhered to the Joint Declaration on the EU-LAC Digital Alliance during the event

7. Next Steps

- Establish working groups to refine roadmap draft by Q1 2025
- Present progress at the upcoming EU-CELAC Summit (Bogotá, 2025)
- Integrate outcomes into the Global Gateway Investment Agenda for digital connectivity and innovation

8. Sources & Further Reading

- Event page (European Commission):
https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/eu-latin-america-and-caribbean-digital-alliance/eu-lac-digital-alliance-high-level-policy-dialogue-data-governance-2024-09-30_en

- D4D Hub overview of Policy Dialogues: <https://d4dhub.eu/initiatives/eu-lac-digital-alliance-policy-dialogues>

- EU-LAC Digital Alliance factsheet (PDF):
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/EULACDigital%20Alliance_2024_FINAL_EN.pdf