

EU-LAC Digital Alliance - Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Cybersecurity & Secure Connectivity

Madrid, Spain | 23-25 October 2024

1. Background & Context

As part of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance policy-dialogue track, the D4D Hub convened a three-day Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Cybersecurity and Secure Connectivity in Madrid. The gathering builds on the conclusions of the first EU-LAC Cybersecurity High-Level Dialogue (Santo Domingo, 2023) and feeds into the forthcoming EU-LAC Dialogue on Connectivity (Santiago de Chile, November 2024).

2. Objectives

- Bring together government, private sector, civil society, academia and development-finance actors to advance bi-regional cooperation on cybersecurity and trusted connectivity.
- Operationalise the Santo Domingo conclusions by identifying investment opportunities and capacity-building needs.
- Map pathways towards resilient digital infrastructure and secure data flows in the LAC region.

3. Key Topics Discussed

- Unlocking larger digital-infrastructure investments in LAC.
- Strengthening national and regional cyber-resilience ecosystems (policy & regulatory frameworks).
- Capacity-building tools, including communities of practice (e.g. LAC4, EU CyberNet).
- Secure connectivity standards (5G Toolbox experiences) and risk-mitigation approaches.

4. Participants

High-level representatives from EU Member States, LAC governments (e.g. Dominican Republic, Mexico, Costa Rica), European Commission DG INTPA & DG CONNECT, RedCLARA, Telefónica, Nokia, Ericsson, multilateral banks (IDB), development agencies (AECID, AFD), civil-society networks (APC), and academic experts.

5. Outcomes & Commitments

- Agreement to draft an investment & capacity-building roadmap on cybersecurity / secure connectivity ahead of the EU-CELAC Summit 2025.
- Launch of thematic working groups to consolidate best practices on risk management, critical-infrastructure protection and regulatory alignment.
- Recognition of RedCLARA and BELLA II as strategic enablers for resilient inter-regional research networks.
- Confirmation that Forum inputs will inform the upcoming Connectivity Policy Dialogue in Chile.

6. Next Steps

- Finalise roadmap (Q2 2025) with concrete milestones for investment mobilisation and skills programmes.
- Report progress to ministers at the EU-LAC Connectivity Dialogue (Chile, Nov 2024) and the EU-CELAC

7. Sources & Further Reading

- Event page:
<https://d4dhub.eu/events/eu-lac-multi-stakeholder-forum-on-cybersecurity-and-secure-connectivity>
- Forum agenda (PDF):
https://cms.d4dhub.eu/assets/Assets-News/Multistakeholder_Forum_Agenda-181024_EN.pdf
- BELLA II / RedCLARA recap:
<https://bella-programme.eu/en/news-2024/346-bella-ii-and-redclara-highlighted-at-the-d4d-hub-multi-stakeholder-forum-on-cybersecurity-and-secure-connectivity>
- LAC4 event snapshot:
<https://lac4.eu/event/multistakeholder-forum-on-cybersecurity-and-secure-connectivity/>