# EU-LAC Joint Declaration on a Digital Alliance: Framework for Digital Cooperation

**Date**: 2023-07-17

**Location**: Brussels, Belgium

## Executive Summary

The EU-LAC Digital Alliance, established on July 17, 2023, aims to enhance cooperation between the European Union and Latin American and Caribbean countries in the digital sector. This informal framework promotes dialogue on digital policies, internet governance, data protection, and emerging technologies, fostering a human-centric digital economy. Key initiatives include the BELLA fibre-optic cable extension, regional Copernicus data centers, and the establishment of a Digital Accelerator to support joint ventures. The Alliance emphasizes inclusivity, aiming to close digital gaps and empower citizens, particularly women and youth, through education and digital literacy. Regular meetings will facilitate the identification of joint priorities and the adaptation of strategies to evolving needs. The partnership is underpinned by shared values of human rights, transparency, and sustainability, ensuring that digitalization benefits all citizens.

## Characteristics

* The EU-LAC Digital Alliance is a collaborative framework for digital cooperation between the European Union and Latin American and Caribbean countries, promoting shared values and human rights.
* It focuses on various digital issues, including internet governance, data protection, cybersecurity, and digital skills development, aiming to enhance connectivity and innovation.
* The Alliance encourages participation from multiple stakeholders, including governments, private sectors, and civil society, fostering a bi-regional dialogue and investment agenda.
* It emphasizes closing digital gaps, promoting social inclusion, and ensuring that digitalization benefits all citizens, particularly marginalized groups.
* The initiative includes specific projects like the BELLA fibre-optic cable and Copernicus data centres to enhance digital infrastructure and collaboration.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | European Union; EU Member States; Community of Latin American and Caribbean States |
| Research and Innovation Actors | EU-LAC Digital Alliance; Digital4Development Hub; LAC Space Agencies |
| Economic Actors | Inter-American Development Bank; World Bank |
| Civil Society Actors | Digital Literacy Initiatives; Digital Skills Development Platforms |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Regional & International Cooperation | EU-LAC Digital Alliance; Bi-regional Cooperation; Global Digital Cooperation |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Policy; Digital Infrastructure; Digital Skills Development |
| Data & Governance | Data Governance; Cybersecurity; Data Protection |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Inclusion; Gender Equality in Tech; Digital Education |

## Practical Applications

* Establishment of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, a framework for cooperation on digital matters among EU and Latin American and Caribbean countries.
* Ongoing cooperation through the BELLA programme, which includes the extension of the BELLA fibre-optic cable to enhance digital connectivity.
* Implementation of a regional Copernicus Strategy, which includes the establishment of two regional Copernicus data centres in Panama and Chile.
* Creation of an EU-LAC Digital Accelerator aimed at fostering collaboration between EU and LAC corporations, SMEs, and innovative start-ups, with a goal of facilitating at least 40 joint ventures for bi-regional innovation and digital transformation.
* Regular bi-regional dialogue and cooperation on digital policy, including data protection, cybersecurity, and interoperability, involving governments, NGOs, and private stakeholders.
* Development of a bi-regional Investment Agenda in the digital domain underpinned by the Global Gateway initiative.

## Commitments

* Facilitate and accelerate at least 40 joint ventures for bi-regional innovation and digital transformation by the establishment of an EU-LAC Digital Accelerator.
* Extend the BELLA fibre-optic cable to interested countries in 2023.
* Implement a regional Copernicus Strategy including two regional Copernicus data centres in Panama and Chile in 2023.
* Review progress on an annual basis.