# EU-LAC Digital Alliance Policy Dialogue: Advancing Connectivity and Inclusion in 2024

**Date**: 2024-11-05

**Location**: Santiago de Chile, Chile

## Executive Summary

The EU-LAC Digital Alliance Policy Dialogue on Connectivity and Inclusion, held in Santiago, Chile from November 5-6, 2024, gathered over 35 countries to address digital transformation challenges and opportunities. Co-hosted by the European Commission and the Chilean government, the event launched the EU-LAC Female Digital Policy-Makers Network to enhance women’s representation in digital policy-making. Key outcomes included actionable strategies for cross-border, secure, and meaningful connectivity, alongside infrastructure investments. The dialogues aimed to align digital policies ahead of the EU-CELAC Summit in 2025, reinforcing synergies with the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC). The discussions emphasized the importance of inclusive digital transformation, addressing issues like cybersecurity, AI governance, and equitable access to technology.

## Characteristics

* The EU-LAC Digital Alliance focuses on enhancing digital transformation through cooperation in connectivity, AI, and cybersecurity, involving over 35 countries.
* The initiative promotes meaningful and inclusive connectivity, emphasizing gender equality and the establishment of the EU-LAC Female Digital Policy-Makers Network.
* Key discussions include infrastructure investments, cross-border connectivity, and the development of regulatory frameworks for AI and data governance.
* The alliance aims to address global challenges and foster socio-economic growth while ensuring human rights and inclusivity in digital policies.
* The BELLA II cable project exemplifies significant advancements in connectivity, enhancing data transfer capabilities for scientific and commercial purposes.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | European Union; EU Member States; European Commission; Government of Chile; Government of Ecuador; Government of Mexico; Community of Latin American and Caribbean States; United Nations |
| Research and Innovation Actors | EU-LAC Digital Alliance; Digital for Development Hub; Universities; Research Performing Organisations |
| Civil Society Actors | Civil Society Organisations; Digital Training and Education Providers |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Agenda; Digital Infrastructure; Digital Platforms |
| Technology & Innovation | Artificial Intelligence; High-Performance Computing |
| Data & Governance | Data Governance; Cybersecurity; E-Governance |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Inclusion; Gender Equality in Tech |
| Regional & International Cooperation | EU-LAC Digital Alliance; Global Digital Cooperation |

## Practical Applications

* Launch of the **EU-LAC Female Digital Policy-Makers Network**, aimed at strengthening women’s leadership and representation in digital policy formulation to promote gender equality.
* Ongoing **EU-LAC Digital Alliance Policy Dialogues**, which focus on actionable conclusions to support connectivity cooperation in areas such as cross-border connectivity, secure and resilient connectivity, infrastructure investments, and meaningful connectivity.
* Implementation of the **Digital Agenda for LAC 2022-2024 (eLAC2024)**, with plans to move forward with the agenda eLAC2026, evaluated during the 9th Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean.
* Deployment of the **BELLA II high-speed cable**, which enhances connectivity between the EU and LAC, significantly improving data transfer speeds for emergency services and scientific research.
* Engagement in the **EU-Brazil digital industry sounding board**, facilitating exchanges between EU companies and Brazilian government representatives to inform AI policy development.
* Co-funding of the **EU-LAC Digital Alliance Policy Dialogues** by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

## Commitments

* Mobilise up to €300 billion in public and private investments from 2021 to 2027 to address global investment disparities and strengthen connections in digital, energy, and transport sectors.
* Launch the EU-LAC Female Digital Policy-Makers Network to promote gender equality in digital policies, initiated on November 5-6, 2024.
* Formulate actionable conclusions to support concrete activities ahead of the EU-CELAC Summit in 2025, focusing on four key connectivity cooperation areas: cross-border connectivity, secure and resilient connectivity, infrastructure investments, and meaningful connectivity.