5th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI 2025

Call Text

Proposal Submission Deadline:
30th April 2025, 17.00 hrs CEST

Websites:
https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions for Call Text and National / Regional Funding Regulations and Guidelines for Applicants
Link to the partner search tool: ENRICH in LAC Matchmaking platform
Link to the project submission platform: https://ptoutline.eu/app/5eulac_call2025

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Applicants must check the national/regional regulations of their funding organisations before they submit their proposal (see https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions)

In case of questions, each participating funding organisation has a call contact point for personal consultancies. See Annex 4.

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1. Role of EU-LAC Interest Group: Background for the 5th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI 2025

The EU-LAC Interest Group was founded in March 2017 in order to maintain the very active bi-regional network built by the EC-funded ERANet-LAC project (2013-2017). It consists of 29 funding agencies from both regions wishing to cooperate in bi-regional science, technology and innovation (STI). The activities organized by the EU-LAC Interest Group aim to support the implementation of the Common EU-LAC Research Area and to create further added value to its four pillars: mobility of researchers; increased thematic cooperation to address global challenges, international outreach of research infrastructures and innovation. The European Commission is participating in this initiative with a specific view of maintaining overall coherence with the governance of the EU-LAC relations.

So far, EU-LAC funding agencies successfully organized four Joint Calls: Between 2013 and 2017 the 18 ERANet-LAC partners carried out two transnational Joint Calls; and in 2017/2018 and 2022 the EU-LAC Interest Group organized successfully two Joint Calls.

1.1 About the 5th EU-LAC Joint Call

The aim of the Joint Call is to keep a sustainable and multilateral research cooperation between researchers from Europe, Latin-America and the Caribbean countries.

Within the framework of the present EU-LAC Joint Call, transnational research and innovation projects will be funded for a period of up to 36 months.

The goal of the present Joint Call is to create long-term collaboration between EU Member States and/or Associated Countries, Latin-American and Caribbean countries by submitting transnational calls in research and innovation.

2. Design of the present EU-LAC Joint Call

The design of the present Joint Call is of flexible nature to ensure that a wide variety of funding institutions is able to participate and that as many researchers as possible from European, Latin-American and Caribbean countries are eligible for funding. For this reason, each participating funding institution will apply its individual national/regional funding regulations.

Before submitting a proposal, the applicant should check the national/regional regulations of his/her funding organisation (see http://eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions).
Applicants are also recommended to contact the national/regional call contact person (See Annex 4) for guidance.

2.2 Participating countries/regions

In total, 16 national/regional funding organisations from 14 countries – 7 from LAC and 7 from Europe - have agreed to participate in the present EU-LAC Joint Call for funding research and innovation projects:

1. Argentina Secretaría de Innovación, Ciencia y Tecnología
2. Austria: Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung, BMBWF
3. Bolivia: Ministerio de Educación - Vice Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología, MINEDU
4. Brazil: Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Cientifico e Tecnológico, CNPq
5. Brazil: Conselho Nacional das Fundações Estaduais de Amparo à Pesquisa, CONFAP
6. Dominican Republic: Ministerio de Educación Superior, Ciencia y Tecnología, MESCyT
7. Germany: Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF
8. Panama: Secretaria Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación, SENACYT
9. Peru: Consejo Nacional de Ciencia Tecnología e Innovación Tecnológica, CONCYTEC
10. Poland: Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju, NCBR
11. Portugal: Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, FCT
12. Romania Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a CDI, UEFISCDI
13. Spain: Instituto de Salud Carlos III, ISCIII
14. Spain: Agencia Estatal de Investigación, AEI
15. Turkey: Turkiye Bilimsel vê Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu, TUBITAK
16. Uruguay: Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación, ANII

Researchers from **countries that are not listed above** are free to participate in all topics as self-financed/associated partners under special conditions (section 2.3 information on self-financed/associated partners).

Proposals must be submitted by transnational consortia. Only researchers based in the countries /regions listed below under each of the mentioned topics are eligible for funding through the EU-LAC Joint Call.

2.3 Call topics

The following table lists all funding topics, followed by the respective national and regional funding agencies that provide financial support for each topic. (Annex 1, for full details on the topics):

Call topic	Participating funding agencies from LAC	Participating funding agencies from Europe
GLOBAL CHALLENGES: Biodiversity (incl. Agriculture and Food Security)	**Brazil (CNPq and CONFAP), Uruguay**	**Austria, Turkey**
BIOECONOMY: Bioeconomy and Nature-based Solutions	**Argentina, Brazil (CNPq and CONFAP),**	**Austria, Turkey**
HEALTH I - Global health	**Argentina, Brazil (CNPq and CONFAP)**	**Austria, Spain (ISCIII), Turkey**
HEALTH II - Infectious diseases	**Brazil (CNPq and CONFAP), Uruguay**	**Spain (ISCIII), Turkey**
ENERGY: EU-LAC Cooperation for energy transition	**Argentina, Brazil (CNPq and CONFAP)**	**Austria, Turkey**
OPEN SCIENCE: EU-LAC Cooperation in Open Science	**Brazil (CNPq and CONFAP), Uruguay**	**Turkey**

2.3 Composition of consortia

Applicants must be eligible for funding according to the regulations of their respective national funding organisations. They can represent public and private scientific, research, technological and innovation institutions on national, federal or EU-LAC regional level, research active industry and NGOs and other institutions involved in research activities, as long as they are eligible for funding according to the respective national and/or institutional regulations.

Only transnational projects will be funded. Each collaborative consortium should have the optimal critical mass to achieve ambitious scientific/innovation goals and should clearly show an added value from working together.

The following criteria must be considered: Each consortium submitting a proposal must involve a **minimum of four eligible partners from four different countries with at least two countries from each region** (see the list of funding organisations in section 2.2, and call contact persons in Annex 4). A maximum number of national partners applying for funding will be defined in the institutional rules of each funding organisation.

Partners not eligible for funding may also be part of the consortia if they are able to clearly demonstrate an added value to the consortium and secure their own funding. However, the coordinator and the majority of partners in a consortium must be eligible for the funding agencies participating in this call. The self-financed/associated partners must provide the call secretariat with a **signed official letter of support** from their head of department or financial director. A pdf-version of this letter must be included as an annex at the end of the proposal before submitting. Self-financed partners cannot assume the role of coordinator of the consortium.

There should be a principal investigator (PI) for each of the national research groups. Each PI will act as contact person for his or her national funders. One of these PIs should be selected through the project consortium as coordinator to represent the consortium, submit the proposal, and establish any further communication with the call secretariat.

A coordinator must not submit more than one proposal. However, one research institution – as a legal entity – is allowed to participate as a coordinator or partner in several project proposals.

NOTE: How to find partners
The call secretariat supports the identification of partner institutions in Latin America/Caribbean and Europe. Under the following link ENRICH in LAC Matchmaking platform a partner search tool is published to help bringing together interested applicants from countries in both regions.
All requests will be published in the search tool and made available to all interested institutions immediately.

2.3.1 Consortium agreement

Each consortium selected for funding must provide a consortium agreement (CA), signed by all participants, to clarify the potential Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) matters (such as licensing in, licensing out, patent and exploitation strategy) and send it to the call secretariat (UEcelac@fecyt.es)

within 3 months following the official project start date (except for projects involving polish partners, see footnote[1]).

Upon request, this consortium agreement must be made available to the concerned funding organisations.

The consortium agreement must address (as a minimum), the following points:

- Common start date and duration of the research and/or innovation project
- Organisation and management of the project
- Role and responsibilities of each partner
- Confidentiality and publishing
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Decision making within the consortium
- Handling of internal disputes
- The liabilities of the research partners towards one another (including the handling of default of contract)

Any issues regarding funding are a bilateral matter between each project partner and the relevant funding organisation and should be excluded from the CA. The CA, together with any other information required by national regulations, must be made available upon request to the national funding agencies.

Standard documents that can be used as templates and modified according to the specific needs of the consortium can be found at: https://www.desca-agreement.eu/desca-model-consortium-agreement . Further instructions will be provided by the call secretariat to the coordinators of the projects selected for funding

2.4 Allowable costs and duration of funding

Since funding will be administered according to the terms and conditions of the responsible funding organisations, the concrete costs that can be financed through the project may vary for individual partners in a given project consortium. It is therefore important to check the national rules of the Funding Parties (http://eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions) and/or to contact the respective national call contact person. The latter can be found in Annex 4.

The duration of a project can be up to **36 months** (check national regulations). Approved projects should start between December 2025 and January 2026.

2.5 Call budget and funding principle

Project partners are funded in accordance with their national and regional funding regulations. All funded projects must have passed the international evaluation and ranking proceedings as specified below (point 4).

The overall budget of this Joint Call is the sum of the individual budgets allocated by each participating funding institution. If more than one funding institution from a given country

[1] Polish projects partners need to send the signed Consortium Agreement to their funding agency **before** the official start of the project.

participates in the Joint Call, the added amount of all institutions from this country is considered as the country's overall Joint Call contribution.

An overview of the contribution from each funding institution to each of the call topics is given in Annex 3.

Some funding institutions may decide to set an **upper limit for the budget that can be requested per project** from the national funding agency. The upper funding limits may thus vary from one country to the other**. Applicants should therefore thoroughly check the national and regional regulations** http://eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions and are strongly recommended to contact their national call contact persons (Annex 4) before submitting their proposal.

3. Proposal submission

Project proposals must be submitted electronically using the PT Outline webtool from DLR: https://ptoutline.eu/app/5eulac_call2025. All proposals must be written in English. The only currency to be applied in the proposal is EURO.

The coordinator should fill in the application from on behalf of the whole consortium and submit the proposal: Only one online proposal per project is needed. The coordinator must confirm that the proposal is endorsed by all project partners by clicking the relevant box in the PT-Outline webtool. It is not required to send a printed version of the proposal to the call secretariat. However, this may be required by some national funding agencies (see national regulations).

The project proposal consists of two parts:

a) **Proposal application form**: Available for download at https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions. This form has to be filled in offline by the project coordinator and uploaded at the PT Outline webtool from DLR: https://ptoutline.eu/app/5eulac_call2025 before final submission of the proposal. It contains the general project data, details on the project consortium, the project description and financial plan.

b) **Online submission form**: This form has to be filled in online by the coordinator. It consists of an overview followed by four pages, each one requiring different information (general project information, data of the project coordinator and partners, project summary). CVs, commitment letters of project partners participating with own funds, as well as letters of support can also be uploaded here, before checking and submitting the proposal.

The applicants may find it useful to check the guidelines for applicants, available at the following web page: https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions.

The web-tool will be open for proposal submission from 3rd February 2025 to 30th April 2025, 17.00 hrs CEST.

More information on how to submit a proposal with the online tool can be found in the guidelines for applicants.

Some funding organisations may ask the applicant to submit a parallel proposal to the funding organisation in line with the national/regional requirements. This can be done once the joint proposal has been submitted to the call secretariat or after the joint proposal has been evaluated. These additional proposals submitted to the national/regional funding organisations may be evaluated or may not be evaluated by the funding organisation, according to the rules and regulations of the funding organisation. For further details about each funding organisation's requirements with regard to proposal submission, please see https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions.

4. Proposal evaluation and funding decision

4.1 Evaluation and selection procedure

4.1.1 Evaluation Procedure

The evaluation process involves four steps:

1) **Eligibility check**: Will be realized by the call secretariat, in cooperation with the representatives of the national funding agencies. In addition, the scientific evaluation committee (SEC) will check the eligibility considering the matching of the proposals in the scope of the topic.
2) **External written peer review**: Will be done remotely by at least two experts covering the specific fields of the research topic(s) addressed. Each evaluator fills in an individual evaluation form whereby s/he assigns a score to each evaluation item. The evaluator also assesses the alignment of the proposal with the objectives and scope of the call.
3) **Ranking of proposals** according to the external evaluation results, selection of the best proposals and funding recommendations: Will be done by the scientific evaluation committees (SECs) in a consensus meeting, organized by the call secretariat. Each SEC will have at least three experts.
4) **Selection of the proposals recommended for funding**: Will be done by the group of funding parties' in the final funding decision, taking into account the evaluations and the budget allocated, and all applicable national regulations.

The scientific evaluation committees will formulate a short consensus report for each proposal (strengths and weaknesses) that will be forwarded upon request to the coordinators of the proposals after the evaluation and decision taken by the group of funding parties.

4.1.2 Eligibility check and eligible beneficiaries

Applicants are strongly advised to contact their national call contact persons in due time before submission to check their national eligibility. The list of CCPs is provided in Annex 4 and also in the national funding regulations of each funding agency (https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions).

A proposal must:

- Conform to the scope and the thematic focus of the call as described in Annex 1
- Meet the consortium composition requirements as specified on section 2.3;
- Comply with the maximum allowed duration (section 2.4);
- Comply with the funding principle as specified (section 2.5 and National Funding Regulations listed at https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions.
- Comply with the terms of the submission procedure as specified in paragraph 3, section 3, proposal submission);
- Be complete according to the rules and in line with the required proposal structure described in the guidelines for applicants;
- Be submitted in English;
- Be submitted electronically using the online tool at https://ptoutline.eu/app/5eulac_call2025 (see section 3);
- Meet the submission deadline (pages 1 and 13).

Following submission, proposals will undergo an eligibility check.

- First, the call secretariat will check the eligibility of the proposals against the criteria agreed by the group of funding parties.
- It will then inform the group of funding parties about the results, providing the rationale for non-eligibility of individual proposals (if relevant) and ask the representatives of the funding agencies to check and confirm the eligibility of applicants from their country, according to their national regulations (https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions).
- The scientific evaluation committees (approved by the group of funding parties and constituted by experts) will check the eligibility considering the matching of proposals in the scope of the topic.
- Finally, each funding party will approve the list of eligible proposals from its national applicants to the call secretariat, which will then inform the GFP about the results providing the rationale for non-eligibility of individual proposals (if relevant).

Only proposals meeting all the above-mentioned eligibility criteria will be processed by the call secretariat. Non-eligible proposals will be rejected. The applicants will be informed by the call secretariat.

Decisions about eligibility of proposals by the GFP are final.

4.1.3 Evaluation criteria

The evaluation procedure will be done according to the criteria defined in the following:

1. **Excellence**

   - Clarity and pertinence of the objectives;
   - Credibility of the proposed approach;
   - Integration of diversity considerations in submitted proposals, as well as underrepresented populations in the planned research/innovation. This includes not only

diversity in the consortium, but also the inclusion of diversity perspectives and analysis in the research/ innovation itself, if relevant. A project is considered diversity (or gender) relevant when it concerns individuals or specific groups of people and/or when its findings may affect individuals or specific groups.

- Soundness of the concept, including trans-disciplinary considerations, where relevant;
- Extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches).

2. **Impact**

- Expected impacts listed in the description under the relevant topic;
- Enhancing research and innovation capacity and integration of new knowledge;
- Any other environmental and socially important impacts;
- Implementation of open science measures (early and open sharing of research; research output management; providing open access to research outputs i.e. publications, data, software, algorithms, etc.), participation in open peer review; involvement of relevant actors including citizens, civil society and end users in the co-creation of R&I contents and agendas;
- Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), to communicate the project and to manage research data where relevant;
- Added value for the EU-LAC cooperation in STI;
- Mobility, networking and training of human resources in both regions;

3. **Quality and efficiency of the implementation**

- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources;
- Complementarity of the participants within the consortium (if relevant) and gender balance among them;
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management;

4. **Economic impact, applicability and exploitation of results**

- Potential for economic impact and exploitation/transfer of results;
- In case of industry and SME participation: Strengthening competitiveness and growth of companies by developing innovations that meet the needs of global markets and, where relevant, deliver such innovations to the market;
- Feasibility;
- Involvement of stakeholders;
- Communication and dissemination of results;
- Exploitation and transfer of results;
- Management of intellectual property issues and consortium agreements.

4.1.4 Rating scores

The evaluators are requested to assess proposals against a set of criteria, each of which may be awarded a maximum of 5 points per criterion, 20 points maximum, according to the following scale:

EXCELLENT = 5 points The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.
VERY GOOD = 4 points The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
GOOD = 3 points The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
FAIR = 2 points The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
POOR = 1 point The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
0 points The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

No additional criteria will be used for evaluation and selection of the proposals.

4.2 Priority ranking through of the scientific evaluation committees

The scientific evaluation committees (SECs) approved by the GFP and constituted by experts or scientific experts, will rank the proposals based on the online evaluations and internal discussions and **recommend to the GFP a list of proposals to be funded.**

4.3 Funding organisations' meeting

The GFP will take the **final decision on the proposals** recommended for funding on a consensus basis, based on the recommendations of the scientific evaluation committees. It will discuss and approve the recommended projects according to the ranking list and available budget. The formal funding decisions are taken by the national funding organisations. The funding will be administered according to the terms and conditions of the participating national and regional funding institutions, taking into account the applicable regulations and available funding.

All applicants will be informed about the outcomes of the evaluation within one month after the funding decision.

5. Funding contract

Following the funding decision, all applicants will be informed by the call secretariat about the results of the evaluation process and the next steps to be taken. From then on, the national phase will start in each participating country or region. The project partners of each proposal to be funded will

conclude an individual funding contract with their respective national/regional funding institution. This may mean that partners of a successful proposal will have to submit an additional application to their national/ regional funding institution to receive their funding.

6. Project implementation and reporting

Each consortium funded in the frame of the present EU-LAC Joint Call must sign a **consortium agreement** listing the rights and responsibilities of each project partner (section 2.3.1). Depending on the nature of the funded project, special regulations should be included in the consortium agreement regarding **Intellectual Property Rights**. Scientific and technological results and any other information derived from the project can be announced, published or commercially exploited with the agreement of the partners of the funded projects and according to the national/regional regulations as well as international agreements concerning intellectual property rights.

The following regulations will apply to all projects that are funded in the frame of the present call:

- In any publication of results, mention must be made that the project was realised within the framework of the EU-LAC Interest Group. The EU-LAC Interest Group logo and the internet address: https://www.eucelac-platform.eu should also be shown on the publication.
- Funding recipients must ensure that all outcomes (publications, etc.) of funded projects include a proper acknowledgement of the EU-LAC Interest Group and the respective national/regional funding partner organisations.

The coordinators of the funded projects will be requested to send the consortium agreement to the EU-LAC call secretariat, latest on the day their project starts officially.

Individual reporting to the national/regional funding institutions might be necessary depending on national/regional regulations.

The progress and final results of each individual contract/letter of grant will be monitored by the respective national/regional funding organisations.

7. Time schedule for the 5th EU-LAC Joint Call

DATE	ACTION
22 Nov 2024	Communication of topics among IG members together with letter of interest
06 Dec 2024	Deadline for the return of letter of interest
11 Dec 2024	Funding agencies' meeting: confirmation of topics, information on joint call proceedings, definition of call procedure
15 Jan 2025	Formal commitment on the call participation (Letter of Commitment, LOC): final budget commitment, allocation of budget to preferred topics, national funding rules
Dec 2024 - 31 Jan 2025	Call documents preparation (call text, proposal forms, guidelines for applicants and evaluators, confidentiality agreement, set up of online submission system (DLR)
24 Jan 2025	Pre-announcement of 5th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI
03 Feb 2025	Launch of the Joint Call
30 April 2025 5 pm CEST	Closure of the Joint Call
30 April – 12 May 2025	International and national eligibility check
13 May – 15 July 2025	Evaluation of proposals based on the evaluation guidelines
1 – 15 Sep 2025	Scientific Evaluation Committee meeting and ranking list
15 – 30 Sep 2025	Funding agencies confirm projects´ funding according to ranking list
3 – 14 Oct 2025	Information to applicants about the results of the evaluation
Oct-Dec 2025	Preparation of national/ regional funding contracts/funding decisions
Dec 2025 / Jan 2026	Start of funded projects
Note	The Consortium Agreement must be sent to the Call Secretariat within 3 months of the official start of the project[2]
Max. duration of projects	36 months

[2] Polish projects partners need to send the signed Consortium Agreement to their funding agency **before** the official start of the project.

Annex 1: Detailed formulation of research topics for the 5th EU-LAC Joint Call

- **GLOBAL CHALLENGES**
  - Topic 1: Biodiversity (incl. Agriculture and Food Security)
- **BIOECONOMY**
  - Topic 2: Bioeconomy and Nature-based Solutions
- **HEALTH**
  - Topic 3.1 Global health
  - Topic 3.2 Infectious diseases
- **ENERGY**
  - Topic 4: EU-LAC Cooperation for energy transition
- **OPEN SCIENCE**
  - Topic 5: EU-LAC Cooperation in Open Science

Topic 1: Biodiversity (incl. Agriculture and Food Security)

Title: EU-LAC Cooperation: Challenges, opportunities and projections in food security

Why is this area relevant and which societal challenges does it address?	Food security is a priority issue on the current international agenda. Based on the report "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023"3. the number of hungry people in the world increased to 828 million in 2021, to cover 9.8% of the world's population. The November 2023 Global Food Security Forum in London highlighted that "(...) Climate change, conflict and population growth pose increasing challenges to food supply." According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) almost 30% of the world's population (2,356.9 million people) live in food insecure conditions and the United Nations projects that going forward almost 670 million people (8% of the world's population) will still be hungry in 2030.4 This call focuses on strengthening cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to address the challenges of food security. What are the main triggers of the global food crisis and recent trends of food insecurity? The main triggers are persistent international conflicts, climate change, biodiversity loss, post-pandemic COVID-19 effects, economic and political crises, high cost of food, energy and fertilizers, factors that lead to growing inequalities and asymmetries in access to food5. This context, as indicated in the Declaration of the Leaders' Summit on World Food Security 2022, has disrupted production and supply chains and has drastically increased global food insecurity, particularly for the most vulnerable6, being a fundamental social challenge. This call focuses on this challenge framed in contributing to a dynamic and agile cooperation bridge between the EU and LAC. LAC is a major global food supplier, exporting 40% of its food production and accounting for 17% of total world food exports. But several countries in the region are also importers. In addition, inequality in access to food, the effects of climate change, rural poverty, loss of agricultural biodiversity and food inflation persist, among other challenges to food security in LAC. In the European Union (EU), food supply is not at risk, but the European agricultural industry depends on imports of essential products such as fertilizers, and in an increasingly challenging and uncertain context such as the war in Ukraine. The key objective of this call is to contribute to strengthening cooperation in food security between the EU and LAC.
Added value gained from EU-LAC	The EU-CELAC Summit Declaration of July 2023 recognized food security as one of the challenges that has been aggravated by the effects of the war in Ukraine and proposed improving cooperation and coordination in multilateral forums.

[3] FAO, FIDA, OMS, PMA y UNICEF. (2023). *Versión resumida de El estado de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en el mundo 2023. Urbanización, transformación de los sistemas agroalimentarios y dietas saludables a lo largo del continuo rural-urbano.* Roma. En: http://doi.org/10.4060/cc6550es

[4] FAO. (2022). "Informe de las Naciones Unidas: las cifras del hambre en el mundo aumentaron hasta alcanzar los 828 millones de personas en 2021". 6 de julio. En: https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/un-report-global-hunger-SOFI-2022-FAO/es

[5] Aróstica, P. (2022). (Guest Ed.) "Asymmetries of the world food crisis", In: *World food crisis: effects and projections in Latin America.* Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica. Vol. 22, N°4. Mexico. pp. 7-10.

[6] U.S. Department of State. (2022). "Declaración de la Cumbre de Líderes sobre Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial". 20 de septiembre. En: https://www.state.gov/translations/spanish/declaracion-de-la-cumbre-de-lideres-sobre-seguridad-alimentaria-mundial/

cooperation for both regions	Cooperation between the EU and LAC has made significant progress: it has promoted the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices; agricultural research and technology has been strengthened; and inclusive rural development has been supported. It has also contributed to improving food availability, food quality and the resilience of rural communities in LAC7. This call focuses on strengthening and giving greater dynamism to the cooperation and promotion of joint strategies between the EU and LAC to address the complexities of food security challenges. Some initiatives that can help add value to bi-regional dialogue and cooperation are8: • Cooperation in research and development: Promote collaboration in joint research and development projects between universities and research centres in both regions to stimulate research on topics such as: sustainable food production methods, innovative agricultural technologies, among others. • Establish platforms for dialogue: Create formal and informal platforms where different actors from the EU and LAC can address food security challenges through meetings and exchanges that foster collaboration between governments at different levels together with actors from the private sector and civil society in search of solutions. • Sharing knowledge and experiences: Promote exchange programs, technical visits and internships so that food safety experts from the EU and LAC can learn together and implement multilevel training for different actors in the food production chain. • Support local initiatives: Strengthen local initiatives that address specific food security issues and replicate successful programs such as "AI-Invest 5.0". • Develop joint policies: Promote joint food security policies between the EU and LAC to enhance the increase of sustainable food production, fertilizer production and other measures. • Encourage investment in advanced agricultural technology: Investing in digitization and modern agricultural technology in LAC to have more efficient irrigation systems or better post-harvest management to reduce food loss and support increased production to meet the growing demand of the population in a sustainable way, brings benefits for both regions. • Encourage sustainable trade: Create an enabling environment for fair trade by promoting the transition to sustainable agriculture, access to a variety of nutritious foods, and include the challenge of food security in future trade agreements between the EU and LAC.

[7] Comisión Europea. (2021). *Programa EUROCLIMA+.* En: https://www.euroclimaplus.org/

[8] Aróstica, P. & Ayuso, A. (2023) "Food Security: How to promote dialogue and cooperation between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean?". EU-LAC Foundation. 29/11. https://eulacfoundation.org/es/seguridad-alimentaria-como-fomentar-el-dialogo-y-la-cooperacion-entre-la-union-europea-y-america

Expected impact for both regions	In the EU-CELAC 2023 Summit Declaration, mention was made of the relevance of joint cooperation "(...) to address the many crises and multiple challenges of our time, such as food insecurity, poverty, inequalities in both regions, disruptions in supply chains and rising inflation." (Council of the European Union, 2023). This call aims to promote cooperation between the EU and LAC essential to address food security challenges and promote sustainable development. Through this call, several specific impacts are pursued through the development of research activities with the participation of experts and policy makers, focused on: • Contribute to rethinking more resilient and efficient food systems as a priority for the EU-LAC cooperation bridge. • Develop mechanisms that promote resilience to effectively address future food crises and their impact in both regions, stimulating agile and action-oriented cooperation. • Promote the analysis of future perspectives of bi-regional cooperation in the field of food security. Considering: the transition towards more sustainable food systems, agricultural digitalization and the promotion of fair and sustainable trade as opportunities for the development of stronger bi-regional cooperation.
Additional information: strategic, tactical and operational topics	A key international challenge for the present and future is to ensure that agri-food systems transform and become more resilient, in order to achieve the goal of providing food at a lower cost, affordable for all and in a sustainable manner. This challenge is also related to the need to reduce inequality gaps and asymmetries, and to this end this call aims to contribute to strengthening cooperation systems between the EU and LAC to address the challenges of food security. While there are relevant achievements and benefits through EU-LAC bi-regional cooperation on food security, there are also challenges that can be addressed to strengthen it further. Below are some strategic issues and possible projections that are considered in this call9: • Climate change and environmental disasters are a continuous and pressing challenge to food security, therefore adaptation to climate change must be a priority in EU-LAC cooperation to ensure long-term sustainable food security. • Pandemics and health crises such as COVID-19 highlight the importance of resilience of food systems. EU-LAC cooperation can strengthen response capacity and support a steady food supply in emergency situations with resilience mechanisms to effectively cope with future food crises. • Inequality and equitable access to food, a persistent problem in LAC. And cooperation with the EU can focus on promoting policies and programs that ensure more equitable access to nutritious food, to reduce the inequality gap in access to food and improve the situation of the most vulnerable groups. • Conflicts such as the war in Ukraine have a significant impact on food security with an asymmetric repercussion on fluctuations in food prices and supply chains in a highly interconnected global food market. Cooperation

[9] Idem.

	between the EU and LAC to address these scenarios is therefore essential. • Transition to sustainable food systems is another key challenge. EU-LAC cooperation can make progress in promoting organic farming, sustainable management of natural resources and reducing food wastage. An approach is needed that promotes sustainable agricultural practices and more environmentally friendly production and distribution systems. • Digitalization and agricultural technology offer opportunities to improve productivity and efficiency in the agricultural sector. Bi-regional cooperation can encourage the adoption of digital technologies, such as precision agriculture and food traceability. In summary, this call focuses on contributing to strengthening cooperation on food security between the EU and LAC. It faces continuing challenges, but also offers opportunities to jointly address these problems and develop innovative solutions. Cooperation and adaptation to changing circumstances will be key to achieving sustainable food security that generates benefits for both regions.

Topic 2: Bioeconomy and Nature-based Solutions

Title: Bioeconomy and Nature-based solutions to address climate change and biodiversity loss, promoting sustainability and climate resilience in urban and rural contexts

Why is this area relevant and which societal challenges does it address?	The global crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss presents critical challenges across environmental, political, social and economic spheres. Strategies such as ecosystem-based adaptation, eco-disaster risk reduction, regenerative agriculture, sustainable landscaping, and green and blue infrastructure are approaches that demonstrate the potential of working with nature to address these challenges holistically. In this context, Nature-based solutions (NbS) emerge as a unifying framework that comprises actions to protect, conserve, restore and sustainably manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems. Their significance lies in their capacity to effectively address social, economic, and environmental challenges while promoting human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience, and biodiversity benefits. When integrated with bioeconomy principles, which promote the sustainable use of biological resources to produce goods, services, and energy, NbS can catalyse the transition towards more sustainable and circular economic models that value and preserve natural capital. The relevance of this field is evidenced by its international recognition and integration into key global frameworks such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. This growing recognition has strengthened the research and innovation partnership between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), where NbS have become a cornerstone of collaborative efforts. The implementation and advancement of NbS varies across regions, reflecting different contexts and priorities. According to the independent expert report from the European Commission, launched in September 2024 "Bridging continents. Exploring the sate-of-play of Nature-based Solutions in the EU and LAC: Building a foundation for collaboration", in Latin America and Caribbean, where urban areas house 80% of the population, NbS initiatives focus on balancing rapid growth with nature conservation, developing strategies such ecosystem-based adaptation and eco-disaster risk reduction, while greater emphasis is needed on strengthening social inclusion and fostering inclusive governance. According to the report, in Europe, research efforts have built evidence foundation that has enabled the integration of NbS into key European Green Deal policies, including the EU Biodiversity Strategy, Nature Restoration Law, and Climate Adaptation Strategy. From a general perspective, both regions face common challenges in maximising NbS impact and implementing bioeconomy approaches, including integrating biodiversity into urban planning, facilitating the transition towards low-carbon economies, and strengthening the link between biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation strategies.

Precise scientific research question incl. added value gained from EU-LAC cooperation for both regions	Global agendas outline the path forward by establishing goals and targets to be achieved across different scales and implemented on the ground. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in 2022, represents a landmark initiative designed to address the critical biodiversity crisis whilst promoting ecosystem recovery for the benefit of both people and the planet. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015 and enacted in 2016, represents a global commitment to combat climate change, enhance climate resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: an action plan for people, planet, prosperity, and peace. However, progress reports reveal concerning trends, with many targets remaining unmet and challenges in achieving integrated implementation across frameworks. This situation calls for comprehensive initiatives that directly contribute to climate action, sustainable development, and biodiversity conservation. NbS and bioeconomy schemes play a pivotal role within these frameworks, as their multifunctional approach enables simultaneous contributions to multiple targets. These approaches drive ecosystem conservation and restoration, enhance climate resilience, and generate sustainable social and economic benefits, advancing the implementation of international environmental frameworks and their vision statements In this context, this call aims to examine how the implementation of NbS and bioeconomy schemes, developed through EU-LAC cooperation initiatives, contribute simultaneously to achieving targets of biodiversity conservation, climate action, and sustainable development agendas, and what aspects of this collaborative approach provide added value to the process. The potential added value of bi-regional cooperation emerges from multifaceted benefits in knowledge exchange. Key advantages include, but are not limited to: ● Enhanced sharing of expertise, data, and best practices, alongside opportunities for democratising knowledge through collaborative project development and inclusive knowledge integration. ● Multidirectional learning, where diverse regional perspectives and experiences contribute to innovative solutions. ● Strengthened multi-level engagement, which can effectively address policy and regulatory barriers, unlock innovative financing mechanisms, and foster meaningful local community participation. ● Strengthened inter-city and cross-country relationships, enabling NbS implementation across diverse contexts whilst facilitating policy alignment between the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework objectives and national agendas.
Expected impact for both regions	EU-LAC collaboration initiatives from this call are expected to facilitate the alignment of global environmental and sustainability agendas with national policies and targets, enhancing the climate resilience of territories and improving ecosystem health for both biodiversity and people. The anticipated impacts of bi-regional collaboration encompass strengthening the implementation of NbS and bioeconomy schemes, whilst promoting innovative solutions as viable alternatives to traditional and unsustainable practices—such as grey infrastructure in cities. This collaboration is expected to foster sustainable economic development through the creation of green jobs in biodiversity management, green-blue infrastructure, and ecological restoration.

	Furthermore, this partnership aims to catalyse transformative change through enhanced multi-level environmental governance, innovative financing mechanisms, and knowledge transfer platforms. Crucially, it has the potential to promote social equity by ensuring equitable distribution of NbS benefits and meaningful community participation, delivering lasting impacts for both regions.
Additional information: strategic, tactical and operational topics	• The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at COP 15, establishes a comprehensive plan with four 2050 goals and 23 targets for 2030, aiming to achieve global harmony with nature through national commitments and international cooperation. • The Paris Agreement, adopted at COP21 in 2015, aims to limit global warming, requiring countries to reach net-zero emissions by mid-century through increasingly ambitious climate action plans. • The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1), adopted in 2015, aims to achieve sustainable development globally by 2030. It presents 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focused on eradicating poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity and peace, with commitments across economic, social, and environmental dimensions. • The UNEP and IUCN report "Nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation" examines how NbS can contribute to climate change mitigation and achieving net zero by 2050, whilst evaluating the role of carbon offsets in financing these initiatives. • The UNEP Resolution 5/5: "Nature-Based Solutions for Supporting Sustainable Development" outlines the United Nations' resolution on NbS for addressing sustainable development challenges, emphasising actions to protect and manage ecosystems to support human well-being, resilience, and biodiversity. • The report "Bridging continents. Exploring the sate-of-play of Nature-based Solutions in the EU and LAC: Building a foundation for collaboration", addresses the current state of NbS in the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, analysing progress, challenges, and opportunities in their implementation. It proposes concrete steps to strengthen EU-LAC cooperation in areas such as joint research, policy integration, capacity building, and innovative financing of NbS. • This EU research and innovation webpage provides an overview of the European Commission's approach to NbS, covering their definitions, global relevance, funding opportunities, research projects, and collaborative initiatives. • The report "Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilient Cities: Perspectives and experiences from Latin America" presents tools to integrate NbS and climate risk assessments into city planning across LAC, aiming to promote resilient urban development through ecosystem services. • The paper "Nature-Based Solutions in Latin America and The Caribbean: Regional Status and Priorities for Growth" outlines the growing transition in LAC towards scaling up the adoption of NbS to transform infrastructure planning and investment for more equitable and sustainable development across multiple sectors.

Topic 3.1: Global health

Title: Everyone involved in the development of global health as a tool for improving health

Why is this area relevant and which societal challenges does it address?	Global health focuses on the health of populations worldwide, recognising that health problems don`t know borders and that diseases can spread rapidly from one country to another. Here are some reasons why it is important and the societal challenges we must address: 1. **Communicable diseases**: Global health deals with the prevention and control of diseases that can cross borders, such as pandemics (e.g. COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis). This involves international collaboration to monitor and respond to epidemiological outbreaks, as well as the prevention of zoonoses. 2. **Health inequalities**: It addresses disparities in access to health services between different countries and communities. Many populations in low- and middle-income countries lack adequate health care, contributing to poverty and social inequality. 3. **Climate change**: Global health addresses the impact of climate change on health, such as the increase in diseases caused by viruses and bacteria, which triggers the use of antibiotics and the real problem of resistance increases.
Precise scientific research question incl. added value gained from EU-LAC cooperation for both regions	1. **Research and development**: Collaboration could promote joint projects in medical research, which could accelerate the development of new vaccines and treatments, especially for diseases that affect both regions. Direct efforts towards sustainable livestock farming and achieve "emissions neutrality" on farms. 2. **Knowledge exchange**: Both continents can share experiences and best practices in health system management, research and treatment development. Being in different locations, with different climates and ecosystems, would improve knowledge of health conditions that we did not share before and have now become widespread, data that would add information to epidemiological studies. Until now, most of the work that has been done is to verify the impact and count cases, but without incorporating possible large-scale solutions. This collaboration, therefore, could answer why certain pathologies occur and find joint solutions. 3. **Resilience to pandemics**: Collaboration would allow for better preparation and response to pandemics, sharing data and resources to deal with health crises more effectively. 4. **Access to medicines**: Working together could facilitate access to medicines and health technologies, especially in health emergency situations. 5. **Capacity building**: Through training and capacity building programs, the capacity of health professionals in both regions could be improved, which would benefit local health systems. 6. **Health policies**: Creating more integrated and coherent health policies could result in a more effective approach to addressing global health problems, such as infectious diseases. In short, strong collaboration could not only improve health in both areas, but also contribute to a more global and coordinated approach to public health.

Expected impact for both regions	1. **Vaccine research and development**: Easier development of effective vaccines against infectious diseases. This includes not only known diseases, but also preparation for possible future outbreaks. New methodologies for rapid manufacturing as well as immunization of known third world diseases. 2. **Epidemiological studies**: Gaining lines of research to understand the spread of diseases and associated risk factors. This helps design more effective interventions and implement evidence-based public health policies. 3. **Development of innovative treatments**: Increased research into new treatments and therapies. 4. **Health information technology**: Technologies such as telemedicine and health apps could be used to improve access to medical services, especially in remote areas. This also includes the use of big data to track outbreaks and health trends. 5. **International collaboration**: Knowledge, resources, and best practices in public health would be shared, as well as the implementation of new forms of healthy cities and reduction of the ecological footprint. 6. **Education and awareness**: Implement evidence-based health education programs from both continents that inform communities about disease prevention, nutrition, and healthy lifestyles. 7. **Evidence-Based policies**: Work with governments and common organizations to develop public health policies that are based on scientific research and that address the specific needs of populations (items 1 to 5), research on childhood obesity. Implementing these strategies can significantly contribute to improving global health and addressing the challenges that arise in the field of public health.
Additional information: strategic, tactical and operational topics	**Strategic topics**: 1. **Global health policies**: Establish regulatory frameworks and policies that promote international cooperation in health. It is a way of sharing knowledge and thereby increasing prevention. 2. **Sustainable financing**: Ensure adequate financial resources for global health initiatives, including investment in complementary infrastructure and technology on both continents 3. **Research and development**: Promote collaboration in research for the development of vaccines, treatments and health technologies, as well as the creation of sustainable cities adapted to each ecosystem. Treatment of drug waste and its consequences on the marine and human world **Tactical topics:** 1. **Information exchange**: Create systems to share data on disease outbreaks, health statistics and best practices. 2. **Training and education**: Develop joint training programs for health professionals in different countries. It is an indirect but very realistic way of exchanging information 3. **Emergency responses**: Establish rapid response protocols for health emergencies, such as pandemics or epidemic outbreaks. **Operational topics:** 1. **Logistics and distribution**: Coordinate the distribution of medical supplies and

	vaccines between countries, ensuring that they reach those who need them most. Faced with unexpected outbreaks with agents not common in each of the areas 2. **Monitoring and evaluation**: Implement systems to evaluate the effectiveness of health interventions and adjust strategies as necessary. Achieve a single evaluation criterion to ensure the quality of common epidemiological studies 3. **Collaboration between organizations**: Promote alliances between governments, ONGs and the private sector to maximise resources and efforts.
Added value gained from the inclusion of research infrastructures	1. **Access to resources**: Shared infrastructures can facilitate access to otherwise limited resources, such as laboratories, specialised equipment, and databases. 2. **Talent development:** Collaboration across continents by sharing infrastructures can foster the training of researchers and students, offering learning and professional development opportunities in a diverse environment. 3. **Advancing the solution of global problems:** International collaboration allows these problems to be addressed in a more effective and coordinated manner if a place to carry out studies and the capacity to carry out ambitious research projects is achieved. 4. **Publications and visibility:** Working together with researchers from different parts of the world who share infrastructures can increase the visibility of research results and facilitate publication in high-impact journals.

Topic 3.2: Health - Infectious diseases

Title: Infectious diseases

Why is this area relevant and which societal challenges does it address?	Infectious diseases have profound impacts on global health, economies, and social stability and continue to be leading causes of illness and death worldwide. Diseases as tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV/AIDS cause millions of deaths each year, especially in low-income countries. Emerging and re-emerging infections, like Ebola, Zika, and COVID-19, among others, have also shown how rapidly infectious diseases can spread and disrupt societies. Migration and international travels have changed the global epidemiology having an important impact in the propagation of diseases. Moreover, populations with limited access to health care are disproportionately affected. Also, vulnerable groups as children, elderly, and immunocompromised Individuals are specially affected. In addition, the overuse of antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents has led to an increase in drug-resistant pathogens. Certain diseases are becoming sometimes impossible to treat due to resistance.
Precise scientific research question incl. added value gained from EU-LAC cooperation for both regions	Understanding infectious diseases is essential to improve the management of patients and their final outcome. It is also critical for pandemic preparedness, as it enables health systems to detect, respond to, and contain outbreaks more effectively. Development of rapid diagnostic tests, antimicrobials, and personalised medicine will improve the outcome of patients. Genomic surveillance has been shown also be essential. Cooperation between both regions will allow the exchange of knowledge as the epidemiological characteristics are different. The concrete experience in one region can be transmitted to the other region with mutual benefit. Also, it will allow strengthening surveillance, diagnostic and response: Improved surveillance infrastructure enables rapid response to outbreaks, benefiting both regions. This cooperation also will reinforce the previous existing individual collaborations among researchers.
Expected impact for both regions	• Development of joint research projects for the creation of surveillance, diagnosis or treatment tools adapted to diverse needs and resources in the different regions • Knowledge exchange: the different epidemiological profiles in the different regions enrich the understanding regarding epidemiology, pathogenicity, antimicrobial resistance, transmission and prevention. • Strengthening surveillance and response: Better surveillance infrastructure allows for rapid response to outbreaks, benefiting both regions. • Training and education: Cooperation promotes training programs that better prepare health professionals in both regions. This joint work in EU-LAC community promotes scientific advances and strengthens global public health.

Additional information: strategic, tactical and operational topics	**Strategic:** • Global Health policies: establishing regulatory frameworks and policies that promote international health cooperation in preparedness and response, antimicrobial resistance, one health etc. • Sustainable financing: ensuring adequate financial resources, including investment in infrastructure in the different regions • Research and development: promote collaboration in research in different areas **Tactical:** • Exchange of information: to develop systems to share databases and other data regarding statistics, outbreaks information etc. • Training and education: to develop joint training programs for researchers and health professionals in the different regions • Preparedness and response: to develop joint protocols to implement a coordinated and improved response for infectious disease outbreaks and other threats **Operational:** • Promote joint research projects in the different areas • Promote Educational activities: webinars, workshops etc. • Promote collaboration among institutions
Added value gained from the inclusion of research infrastructures	The inclusion of Research Infrastructures (RIs) enhances the quality and impact of the partnership. It will allow sharing and having access to: • Facilities: high biocontainment laboratories, veterinary facilities, biobanks, NGS platforms etc. • Databases: genomic databases, proteins, culture collections etc. • Scientific Networks in different fields • Research services and resources to support research projects Also, it will allow to optimise the use of the scientific and technological resources available in the EU-LAC community and thus play a major role in supporting and advancing all research fields. Connecting RIs across regions strengthens global research networks, promoting the co-creation of knowledge and addressing global challenges regarding infectious diseases more effectively.

Topic 4: Energy

Title: EU-LAC Cooperation for Energy transition

Why is this area relevant and which societal challenges does it address?	There is an international need to transition from the use of fossil fuels to more sustainable energy sources. This objective, driven by environmental awareness and concern about the depletion of hydrocarbon reserves has begun to be reflected in noticeable changes in the energy matrix of the different countries. The need to opt for less polluting energy sources has made the energy transition a recurring theme on governmental and business agendas that seek to address current challenges in the energy sector. The aim is to replace fossil energy sources, due to their significant impact on accelerating climate change. Energy transition is a crucial issue in the context of sustainable development. The international community seeks to address global energy challenges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy access and promote sustainable development. In this respect, the Sustainable Development Goal 7 of the United Nations Agenda 2030 aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. This includes promoting renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and universal access to adequate energy services.
Added value gained from EU-LAC cooperation for both regions	The European Union (UE) is investing in clean energies as never before and needs new allies, reliable allies equally committed to the goal of a green and just energy transition. The EU needs to modernize the energy networks to support energy system integration and to integrate other decarbonized and low-emission energy carriers, such as renewable hydrogen and lithium technologies (according to the Paris Agreement). International problems require international solutions, and Latin-America and the Caribbean (LAC) region is a key and natural partner of the EU in this matter. The EU has been developing for more than a decade an active policy of energetic transition, in support of its efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. Now the energetic transition is a priority in Europe through the European Green Deal, to make Europe the first continent climatically neutral. The contribution of Latin-American countries to achieve it is essential. LAC is one of the regions of the world that has been suffering the most from climate change: lost crops, new public health problems, extreme meteorological phenomena, or the proliferation of sixth-generation fires. The energy transition implies both a need and an opportunity for the LAC region. The so-called "lithium triangle", integrated by Argentina, Bolivia and Chile, represents 60% of the global resources[10]. It is also estimated that LAC may produce 12% of green hydrogen demand by 2050[11]. The EU-CELAC Summit Declaration of July 2023 reflects the need to promote cooperation and coordination on issues of common interest such as climate change and energy security. In this alliance for the energy transition, Europe can learn about how to decarbonize its energy matrix, or how to integrate local communities in the construction of energy infrastructure through participatory processes; and Latin America and the Caribbean countries can overcome some of the technical and scientific deficits.

[10] Latin American Economic Outlook 2022: Towards a Green and Just Transition | Latin American Economic Outlook | OECD iLibrary (oecd-ilibrary.org)

[11] OEI | Argentina | Publicaciones | El estado de la ciencia: principales indicadores de ciencia y tecnología iberoamericanos / interamericanos 2022

Expected impact for both regions	The aim of the 5th Joint Call is to initiate sustainable and multilateral research cooperation between researchers from Europe, Latin-America and the Caribbean countries. In the topic of energy, it is expected that proposals contribute to generate relevant effects on the generation and exchange of knowledge among Europe and LAC to supply solutions for a progressive electrification, integrating decarbonized and low emission energy carriers, especially through renewable hydrogen and biofuel, but not only, so proposals focused on other renewable sources (wind, solar, ...) are also welcome. Consequently, apart from the impacts included on the criteria defined in the call, it is expected that proposals submitted through this topic specifically contribute to: • Generate innovative solutions oriented to solve problems of local communities and society, promoting climate neutrality and a clean, sustainable, and just transition of the energy sector to advance to a resilient society. • Improve the knowledge about what are the most viable, useful and urgent possible applications of hydrogen, biofuel and other renewable energy sources. • Promote policy recommendations and guidelines about energy transition. • The integration between the EU and LAC is essential to complement strategies, resources and technologies. This integration involves not only technology, but also new models of economic and social links that impact society. • Create long-term collaboration between European and Latin-American researchers that generate added value to science, research and innovation in the field of energy transition. The transnational dimension of the project should clearly add value, achieving results that would not be reached by researchers from a single country.
Additional information: strategic, tactical and operational topics	Considering this context and objectives, proposals should encourage a multidisciplinary approach, not only focused on the scientific or technical obstacles preventing from a more intensive exploitation of renewable energies. It also aims to take into account the environmental and social dimension of the phenomenon. On one hand, it is essential to consider the social aspect in order to get through to the population. Without this, the needed energy transformation in Europe and LAC will not be achieved. On the other hand, results related to energy transition must be carefully developed to avoid or mitigate environmental impacts. In addition, according to the SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development), projects should be developed through multi-actor operative strategies, engaging relevant stakeholders not only from the academy but also from governments, private sector and civil society. Consortium candidates are strongly encouraged to take into account participatory and co-designed methodologies to carry out their research and innovation projects. According to the general call, proposals should promote practices and actions that contribute to open science such as the measures contemplated on the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science | UNESCO. Open science does not only focus on ensuring accessibility to scientific knowledge but also emphasizes the importance of fostering an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable environment in the production of such knowledge. For this reason, FAIR and CARE principles should be also considered in the proposal. Finally, gender equality perspective is needed as a structural approach to achieve energy security at national and international level.

Topic 5: Open Science

Title: EU-LAC Cooperation: Open Science

Why is this area relevant and which societal challenges does it address?	Open science is relevant to society for several key reasons: (1) It facilitates access to research and data, allowing more people to benefit from scientific knowledge regardless of their location or resources. (2) It promotes collaboration among researchers, institutions, and citizens, fostering the exchange of ideas, and increasing transparency in the scientific process and collective innovation. (3) Overall, open science democratises knowledge and drives social and scientific progress, benefiting society as a whole. At the beginning of the 21st century, the difficulty and high costs of accessing publicly funded scientific content was identified as a global public problem that needed to be addressed. Accordingly, science, technology and innovation (STI) policies broadened their focus to direct their attention also on improving the system of scholarly communication and on solving the dysfunctions and heavy economic burdens generated by the huge market for scholarly publishing in public R&D systems, giving rise to open access policies. These were marked as priorities, first by the European Union (EU), then by the EU's Member States, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)[12]. In this context, the first movements in favour of open access arose, giving rise to the Budapest OA Initiative (2002)[13], the Bethesda Statement on OA Publishing (2003)[14] and the Berlin Declaration on OA in the Sciences and Humanities (2003)[15], all of which defined OA as online access to all scientific information free of charge to the reader and under licences allowing its use by researchers, companies and citizens, without economic, legal or technological barriers. To achieve this, the Budapest Declaration outlined two complementary strategies: (1) self-archiving in institutional or subject repositories of articles previously published in academic journals; and (2) publication in journals whose business model was not subscription access but open access[16]. Over the past two decades, Latin America has experienced a significant transformation in how open access and open science are viewed. This shift has been driven by key policy statements and tangible initiatives that have laid the groundwork for institutions and networks dedicated to digital resources. Important milestones in this movement include the Santo Domingo Declaration Science for the 21st Century[17], the Salvador Declaration on Open Access[18], the CLACSO General Assembly Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge

[12] Rico-Castro, P. (2019): "¿Amigos o enemigos? Cómo la open science pone a las políticas de open access frente al espejo". ("Friends or foes? how open science places open access policies in front of the mirror"). *RUIDERAe: Revista de Unidades de Información*, Nº. 15, 2019. https://revista.uclm.es/index.php/ruiderae/article/view/2166

[13] Budapest OA Initiative (2002) https://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/

[14] Bethesda Statement on OA Publishing (2003): http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/bethesda.htm

[15] Berlin Declaration on OA in the Sciences and Humanities (2003): https://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration

[16] European Commission: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *Open access policies in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union – Progress towards a political dialogue*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/90667

[17] https://rieoei.org/historico/documentos/rie20a12.htm

[18] http://biblioteca.clacso.edu.ar/gsdl/collect/clacso/index/assoc/D771.dir/12Decla.pdf

	Managed as a Common Good[19], the Mexico Declaration in Defence of the Latin American Open Access Ecosystem[20], and the Panama Declaration on Open Science (2018)[21]. Besides, countries like Argentina, Chile, Colombia, México, and Perú have developed a national policy on open access, while Brazil, Costa Rica El Salvador, Panamá and Uruguay have developed institutional open access policies.
Added value gained from EU-LAC cooperation for both regions	Open science has a systemic focus, aiming to comprehensively and coherently transform the four key processes of scientific activity: (1) research funding, (2) research performance, (3) research outputs communication, and (4) research assessment. This perspective moves beyond the narrower view of open access policies, which tend to concentrate solely on the communication aspect[22]. To effectively design open access policies, it is essential for all stakeholders involved in the research cycle activities to be well-coordinated. The challenges faced by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the EU are similar, as the transition to an open science paradigm exerts significant evolutionary pressures on all STI systems. However, each region has approached these challenges differently due to the unique configurations of their respective institutional R&D ecosystems.
Expected impact for both regions	The LAC and EU regions are defined by a mutual understanding of open science and have established initiatives that align closely, despite their differing contexts. Both regions have confronted the initial challenge of making scientific resources accessible to all through declarations, mandates, and open access policies grounded in digital infrastructures. Recently, both regions have recognised the need for public action to expand their focus on open science and address new challenges, such as evaluating scientific merit[23]. The close alignment of policies between both regions, along with the increasing focus and support that the EU is providing for community-based and non-profit open access initiatives, creates an ideal environment for mutual learning and bi-regional collaboration in open science. The aim is to successfully develop the EU-LAC Common Research Area. To advance the engagement between the EU and LAC in addressing common challenges, move towards mutual learning and achieve complementarity of approaches and actions in favour of open access, this call focuses on: (1) strengthening digital open science infrastructures in both regions, jointly searching for political, technical and technological solutions that are interoperable within countries, among countries and between regions; and (2) moving towards a coordinated reform of the research assessment systems based on open science paradigm in both regions, following the recommendations for a joint policy action on which to base intra-LAC and EU-LAC collaboration published in 2023 (Open access policies in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union: Progress

[19] https://www.clacso.org.ar/conferencia2015/documentos/asamblea/declaraciones/4-Declaracion-de-CLACSO-sobre%20el-acceso-abierto-al-conocimiento-gestionado-como-un-bien-comun.pdf
[20] http://amelica.org/index.php/2020/06/12/acceso-abierto-no-comercial-y-la-declaracion-de-mexico/
[21] https://forocilac.org/declaracion-de-panama-sobre-ciencia-abierta/
[22] European Commission: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *Open access policies in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union – Progress towards a political dialogue*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/90667
[23] European Commission: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *Open access policies in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union – Progress towards a political dialogue*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/90667

	towards a political dialogue).
Additional information: strategic, tactical and operational topics	Proposals may address aspects of open science in general and not just open access, including all research outputs such as data, software, protocols, methodologies, open educational resources, citizen science activities, scientific dissemination, and the reform of the research assessment systems. In addition, alignment with funded initiatives and projects related to this topic, such as EOSC, ORE[24], LA Referencia, Latindex, SciELO, Redalyc, or specifics UE funded projects such as DIAMAS[25], PALOMERA, CRAFT-OA and ALMASI will be highly valued.

Annex 2: List of LAC research infrastructures (RI) Where to find information on EU RI.

Please note that the use of infrastructure in your proposal is welcomed.

The H2020 project EU-LAC ResInfra has provided the following list of LAC RIs. It is one of the project public deliverables, result of the work performed by the consortium members.

The list is provided for information and to help proposers when looking for potential RI in Latin America and Caribbean countries to participate as consortium members. The RIs have been classified per country and area of expertise.

In addition, the project has also identified a list of key actors in EU and LAC for achieving HPC sustainability[26].

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

COUNTRY	RESEARCH INFRASTUCTURE	RI ACRONYM
BARBADOS	Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute	CARDI
	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology	CIMH
BRAZIL	Mamirauá Sustainable Development Institute	IDSM
COLOMBIA	CEPASS Corporation	
	Institute of Biotechnology-National University	IBUN
	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies	IDEAM
	Institute for Science and Food Technology	INTAL
COSTA RICA	Environmental Pollution Research Center	CICA
	National Institute for Innovation and Transfer of Agricultural Technology	INTA
	National Center for Food Science and Technology	CITA
ECUADOR	National Institute of Agricultural Research	INIAP

[24] https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/
[25] https://diamasproject.eu/
[26] https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/list_of_eu-lac_hpc_research_infrastructures.pdf

	National Fishery Institute	INP
PANAMA	Agricultural Innovation Center	IDIAP

HEALTH

COUNTRY	RESEARCH INFRASTUCTURE	RI ACRONYM
BARBADOS	George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre	CDRC
BRAZIL	Unidade de Pesquisa e Produção de Radiofármacos	UPPR
COLOMBIA	Research Center of the Cardiovascular Foundation of Colombia	
	National Institute of Health	
	Institute of Genetics	
PANAMA	Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Studies	ICGES
URUGUAY	Preclinical Research Infrastructure	CUDIM
	Instituto Pasteur-Transgenic and Experimental Animals Unit	IP Montevideo

BIODIVERSITY

COUNTRY	RESEARCH INFRASTUCTURE	RI ACRONYM
BOLIVIA	Institute of Ecology, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés	IE-UMSA
	Center for Biodiversity and Genetics	CBG
COLOMBIA	CEPASS Corporation	
	INSTITUTO SINCHI	SINCHI
	Information System on Biodiversity of Colombia	SIB COLOMBIA
ECUADOR	National Meteorological and Hydrological Institute	INAMHI
MEXICO	Instituto de Ecología, A. C.	INECOL
	Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education at Ensenada, Baja California	CICESE
PANAMA	Coiba AIP Scientific Station	COIBA AIP

ENERGY

COUNTRY	RESEARCH INFRASTUCTURE	RI ACRONYM
BARBADOS	Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute	CARDI
BRAZIL	Electric Energy Research Center	CEPEL
CHILE	Centro de Excelencia en Geotermia de Los	CEGA

	Andes	
COLOMBIA	Corporation Center for innovation and technological development of the electricity sector	CIDET
	Gas Technology Development Center Corporation	
COSTA RICA	Research Center in Atomic, Nuclear and Molecular Sciences	CICANUM
ECUADOR	National Institute for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies	INER
MEXICO	Centro de Ingeniería y Desarrollo Industrial	CIDESI
PANAMA	Electrical, Mechanical and Industry Research and Innovation Center, Technological University	CINEMI

MULTIDISCIPLINARY

COUNTRY	RESEARCH INFRASTUCTURE	RI ACRONYM
BRAZIL	Northeast Strategic Technologies Center	CETENE
	National Institute of Amazon Researches	INPA
	National Institute for Technology	INT
	National Institute for Semi-Arid	INSA
	Nacional Observatory	ON
	Instituto Alberto Luiz Coimbra de Pós-Graduação e Pesquisa de Engenharia	COPPE/UFRJ
COLOMBIA	Corporation for Biological Research	CIB
	AGROSAVIA	
COSTA RICA	Natural Products Research Center	CIPRONA
MEXICO	Centro de Investigación y Asistencia en Tecnología y Diseño del Estado de Jalisco, A. C.	CIATEJ
	CentroGeo research and technology infrastructure	ITICentroGeo
	Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico en Electroquímica, SC.	CIDETEQ
PANAMA	Institute of Scientific Research and High Technology Services	INDICASAT AIP
URUGUAY	Clemente Estable Biological Research Institute	IIBCE
	Technological Pole Institute of Pando	IPTP
	Latitud - LATU Foundation	LATITUD

Additional information on Brazilian RIs:
National Research Infrastructure Platform MCTI (2020). https://pnipe.mctic.gov.br

EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES:

The European Commission and ESFRI encourage Member States and Associated Countries to develop national roadmaps for research infrastructures (RIs). The following link gives access to the national roadmaps: https://www.esfri.eu/national-roadmaps.

Annex 3: Overview of funding by the participating funding organisations to each topic

Legend: Yes = The respective funding agency is funding the indicated topic. No = No funding allocated to this topic by the respective agency.

#	Country	Funding Agency	*Topic 1 Biodiversity (incl. Agriculture and Food Security)*	*Topic 2 Bioeconomy and Nature-based Solutions*	*Topic 3.1 Global health*	*Topic 3.2 Infectious diseases*	*Topic 4 EU-LAC Cooperation for energy transition*	*Topic 5 EU-LAC Cooperation in Open Science*	Total
1	Argentina	Secr. de Innov, Ciencia y Tecn.	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no	Budget tbd[27]
2	Austria	BMBWF	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	
3	Bolivia	MINEDU							Budget tbd[28]
4	Brazil	CNPq	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
5	Brazil	CONFAP	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Budget tbd[29]
6	Dom. Rep.	MESCYT							
7	Germany	BMBF							
8	Panama	SENACYT							
9	Peru	CONCYTEC							
10	Poland	NCBR							
11	Portugal	FCT	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	300,000 EUR
12	Romania	UEFISCDI							
13	Spain	AEI							
14	Spain	ISCIII	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	
15	Turkey	TUBITAK	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
16	Uruguay	ANII	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes	100,000 USD

[27] The available budget for project funding will be defined by each Argentinian institution participating in one of the mentioned topics.
[28] The available budget for project funding will be defined by each Bolivian institution participating in one of the mentioned topics. In Bolivia, universities and research centres dispose of their own financial resources and are free to fund the international projects they consider relevant and according to their individual institutional funding regulations.
[29] The budget for each participating State Funding Agency (FAP) is detailed in the funding regulations of CONFAP under: https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions

Annex 4: Contact information, call contact persons

The **call secretariat** for the 5th EU-LAC Joint Call is entrusted with the overall operational management of the present call. It is the general contact point for first questions related to the Joint Call, the application process and the use of the PT Outline webtool.

The **call contact persons (CCPs)** are located in each country which participates in the present Joint Call. One of their main tasks is to advise the potential applicants from their countries/regions on the applicable national/regional regulations during the proposal submission process.

5th EU-LAC Joint Call: Call Contact Persons			
Argentina	Secr. de Innov., Ciencia y Tecnología	Paula Brennan	brennanp@jefatura.gob.ar Tel: +54 9 11 4899 5000 int. 4176
Austria	BMBWF	Dorian Taylor Isabella Scheibelreiter	dorian.taylor@bmbwf.gv.at Tel: +43 531207223 isabella.scheibelreiter@oead.at Tel: +43 53 3408 472
Bolivia	MINEDU	Mauricio Céspedes	mauricio.cespedes@planificacion.gob.bo Tel: +591 7011 7444
Brazil	CNPq	Dileine Cunha Lelio Fellows	dileine.cunha@cnpq.br Tel: +55-61-3211-9879 leliof@cnpq.br *+55-61-3211-9247*
Brazil	CONFAP	Flávia Cerqueira	flaviac.confap@gmail.com
Dominican Republic	MESCYT	Carlos M. Rodriguez	carlosrguez96@gmail.com Tel: +809-731-4223
Germany	BMBF / DLR	Anneken Reise Kiwitt-Lopez Suarez	Anneken.Reise@dlr.de Tel: +49 228 3821-1241 uta.kiwitt-lopez@dlr.de Tel: +49 228 3821-2620
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Romania	UEFISCDI	Domnica Coteț	domnica.cotet@uefiscdi.ro
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Spain	ISCIII	Cristina Nieto	mnieto@isciii.es Tel: +34 91 822 24 43
Turkey	TUBITAK	Elçin Çalişkan	elcin.caliskan@tubitak.gov.tr Tel: +90 312 298 9376
Uruguay	ANII	Ana Vásquez	ana.vasquez@anii.org.uy

		Lucia Neirotti	lucia.neirotti@anii.uy Tel: +598 26004411
Call Secretariat			
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