



Launch of D4D Hub Latin America and the Caribbean DG INTPA's and EU Member States' Support on Digital4Development

High-Level Event (online)

Background:

As countries and communities struggle to recover from the COVID-19, digital transformation in the LAC region offers promising opportunities to create more prosperous, inclusive, and resilient economies.

In December last year, the European Commission's President Von der Leyen launched the Digital for Development Hub (D4D Hub), an ambitious Team Europe multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism that aims to step up the dialogue and partnerships with partner countries to promote a human-centric model of digital transformation.

While the D4D Hub has global coverage, it focused in a first phase on Africa: thanks to a first pilot project, the AU-EU D4D Hub, which gathered the contributions from the EU, Germany, France, Belgium, Estonia and Luxembourg. More EU Members have joined the D4D Hub since. In this context, Slovenia recently expressed interest to be part of the D4D hub and contribute to its activities.

Building on this success, the D4D hub will expand its reach to the LAC region, one of the EU's closest and most like-minded partners. The EU and LAC have expressed a shared interest in strengthening digital cooperation, as a central part of their joint forward-looking, sustainable recovery agenda. In line with the recommendations of the EU-LAC Ministerial Meeting of 14 December 2020 and the recent EU-LAC Leaders' Meeting (2 December 2021), joint work is progressing towards the establishment of the **EU-LAC Digital Alliance** in 2022.

The Alliance will foster human-centric digitalisation in partnership, by advancing convergence of digital rules and standards, and promoting digital innovation with a strong participation of the private sector. It will better the two regions to be better connected through digital infrastructures, in line with the EU Global Gateways strategy. A central element is the expansion of the BELLA programme, which supported the deployment of the first direct submarine fibre-optic cable between the EU and LAC and a terrestrial backbone in South America, amounting together to a 35000 km long secure and high-speed network for research and educational exchanges.

The D4D hub will be one of the main channels to translate the future EU-LAC Digital Alliance into concrete actions. It will foster contacts and partnerships between the EU and LAC digital actors, and help mobilise EU digital expertise, technology and investment.

The Slovenian Presidency is keen to build on this momentum for the EU-LAC relations and co-host the launch the regional branch of the D4D Hub for the LAC region.

Goals:

- High-Level Launch of D4D Hub Latin America and the Caribbean
- Showcasing the impact of EU/EU Member States digital projects in LAC



Occasion:

One year after the high-level announcement of the EU D4D Flagships by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and EU Head of States, calling for regional branches to be established. Online-digital event under Slovenian EU Council Presidency.

Target Audience:

The wider public from the EU and LAC through press, private sector, EU institutions and Member States, public authorities in the EU and LAC, Digital4Development partners (such as digital/ICT ministries, civil society, tech companies).

Date: December 14th, 2021, 15:00 p.m. to 16:30 p.m. (CET)

Duration and format: 90 minutes, online

Time (CET)	Agenda Points	Speaker
15.00 h	Welcome (live)	Moderator Anna-Maria Osula Senior Researcher, Tallinn University of Technology
15.05 h	Introduction by EU Commission (video) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection & way forward on digital cooperation in LAC Global Gateway Strategy on the ground 	Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships
15.10 h	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) - video	Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary ECLAC
15.15 h	D4D agenda by Slovenia 2021 EU Council Presidency (live) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU programming & launch of D4D Latin America & Caribbean branch 	dr. Stanislav RAŠČAN State Secretary at the MFA, acting as Minister for Development
15.20 h	Roundtable of Member States, European Commission and LAC partners (live+videos) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitments towards D4D Latin America & Caribbean branch 	Senior Representatives of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Finland: live Slovenia: live Estonia: pre-recorded Spain: video France: video Panama: video Chile: video Costa Rica: video Brazil: video
15.50 h	Impacts of “Team Europe” contribution to D4D in LAC (live)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart Development Fund Call vs Corona: <i>free access to interactive audio content to marginalised and isolated populations, in their local languages.</i> 	Regine Theodat, Country Manager, Viamo, Haiti
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU CyberNET 	Siim Alatalu Director, EU CyberNet
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artificial Intelligence 	John Shawe-Taylor Director IRCAI - Unesco International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence, Slovenia Alexandre Barbosa, CETIC, Brazil



•	• BELLA Connectivity	Luis Eliecer Cadenas Executive Director of RedClara
	Joint Discussion	
16.25 h	Closing (live) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scaling D4D hub	Roberto Viola, Director-General, DG CNECT