



# ENRICH

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF  
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
CENTRES AND HUBS,  
LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

March | 2022

## ENRICH MONTHLY



**MONTHLY BUSINESS & INNOVATION  
NEWS COMPILED BY ENRICH IN LAC**



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### Country Profile: Spain, EU & LAC

The LAC region is important to Spain for many reasons: in addition to traditional values Spanish investments are becoming increasingly relevant.



### ESDN Report

Parliamentary Mechanisms  
in the Implementation of  
the 2030 Agenda



### Information for Applicants to the 4th EU-LAC Joint Call

Info-Session and online  
material on the 4th EU-LAC  
Joint Call in STI



Alameda Franca, 1050  
10o. andar, Jardins  
São Paulo - SP – Brazil  
<https://lac.enrichcentres.eu/contact-us/>



# EDITORIAL



Dear Reader,

a warm welcome and thank you for your time and interest in our March edition of the ENRICH Monthly. In each edition we provide you with the latest Science, Technology and Innovation related news from Europe, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Uruguay.

The *European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)*, which is an informal network of public administrators and other experts dealing with sustainable development, has published a report on *Parliamentary Mechanisms in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda*. In this edition, we provide you with insights about the report, that comprises a study of 30 parliaments in Europe and how they are involved in their country's SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) implementation (p. 19).

With a GDP of USD 1.3 trillion and a population of 47 million people, Spain is the fourth-largest

economy in the Eurozone. The LAC region is important to Spain for many reasons: in addition to traditional values of history, culture, language and religion, which have governed relations over the past two centuries, Spanish investments are becoming increasingly relevant. In very few years, Spain has become the second largest investor in the region, in countries such as Argentina, Chile and Columbia, making Spain the main non-American player in Latin America. Learn more about Spain's Economic, Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Landscape, National STI Priorities and Funding opportunities in Horizon Europe.

If you enjoy reading ENRICH Monthly e-magazine, please do not hesitate to recommend it to your peers and share the following subscription [link](#). We also welcome your feedback by [e-mail](#).

All the best for you,  
ENRICH in LAC Team

## SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT'S INSIDE:

LATEST NEWS LAC & EUROPE

PUBLIC CALLS

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS TO THE 4TH EU-LAC JOINT CALL

ESDN REPORT ON PARLIAMENTARY MECHANISMS (AGENDA 2030)

COUNTRY PROFILE: SPAIN, EU & LAC REGION

First session

## FIND YOUR MATCH

Be part of our network and enjoy the benefits of being in contact with the best clusters, incubators and tech parks in Europe and Latin America.

The opportunities  
are worldwide

Landing on April 2022

Online event

FREE of charge

## Soft Landing Hubs Twinning Programme

  
Matchmaking

  
Networking

  
Capacity-building

  
Brokerage

The ENRICH Twinning Programme consists of a series of interactive virtual meetings that will foster networking, capacity building, brokerage and matchmaking among the participants.

It is designed for clusters, incubators and tech parks willing to go international and to strengthen their capacities on soft landing services.

## ENRICH YOUR OPPORTUNITIES EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

15h CET | 11h UCT-3

April 6<sup>th</sup> Open session - Kick Off

Filipe Cassapo, president of ENRICH in LAC will address some important issues:

- Challenges in public-driven policies for international partnerships
- Reasons to partner with Europe (With Dr. Carlos Eduardo de Andrade Lima da Rocha, Coordinator - Fiocruz International Cooperation Agreement - University of Aveiro (Portugal))
- Demystifying the bureaucracy for international partnerships (With SPI)
- Funding mechanisms for partnering abroad (With Raquel Almeida, trainer for Horizon Europe)

Katrin Singer, representing Fraunhofer, institution ahead of the coordination of ENRICH in LAC will address:

- The opportunities attached to the internationalization
- How ENRICH in LAC can help your institution and how to become a member
- Successful cases under our orientation.

15h CET | 11h UCT-3

April 7<sup>th</sup> Open session - Matchmaking

- Presentation of the participants
- Breakout rooms: participants will be able to discuss with others in specific rooms divided by interest.
- **EXCLUSIVE FOR MEMBERS ENRICH in LAC:** members will receive a tailored suggestion of matchmaking according to their activity, strategy, location, values, and goals.

15h CET | 11h UCT-3

April 8<sup>th</sup> Members only - Consulting Services

- During the Last day of the event, members will have a tailored experience. Interested parties will have time to discuss with experts and create a made-to-measure action plan, with the next steps to make their partnering successful and in full contact with their matches!



# LATEST NEWS

## LAC AND

## EUROPEAN UNION

### IDIH Week 2022 | 21 – 24 March

The project [IDIH – International Digital Health Cooperation for Preventive, Integrated, Independent and Inclusive Living](#) brings together prominent organisations from EU and five Strategic Partner Countries, i.e. Canada, China, Japan, South Korea and the USA with the aim to promote and increase international collaboration to advance digital health to support active and healthy ageing through innovation. As part of its activities, the project organises a 4 day online international event dedicated to researchers, innovators, care providers and users associations dealing with Digital Health for Active and Healthy Ageing (AHA).

Three sessions will be dedicated to Information, Networking & Matchmaking, and Co-creation among all the key-stakeholders of digital solutions for AHA in Europe, as well as in China, Canada, Japan, South Korea, and USA. A key-novelty of this 2022 edition will be two Regional Workshops dedicated to the R&I landscape around Digital Health & Ageing, respectively in the USA and Japan.

Learn more about the IDIH Week 2022 and register [here](#).

LinkedIn: [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/idih-global\\_save-the-date-idih-week-2022-21-24-march-activity-6897133720936284160-5F7G](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/idih-global_save-the-date-idih-week-2022-21-24-march-activity-6897133720936284160-5F7G)

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/IDIHglobal/status/1491371412355182595?s=20&t=l2uxuPL-rxGwkDEZhaQ\\_ow](https://twitter.com/IDIHglobal/status/1491371412355182595?s=20&t=l2uxuPL-rxGwkDEZhaQ_ow)

### EU at UN Environment Assembly: seeking to secure launch of negotiations for global agreement on plastics

Commissioner **Sinkevičius** is representing the European Union at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) taking place from 28 February to 2 March in Nairobi, Kenya. In an alliance with partners from all continents, the EU will seek to secure the launch of negotiations for a new legally binding global agreement on plastics. The EU will also aim to create a Science-Policy Panel for Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, to reinforce scientific advice to the global community in a similar way as the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change. A final objective will be to reach an agreement on a definition of the concept of nature-based solutions, decisive ahead of COP15 under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The EU's key negotiating objectives include:

- ❖ **Establishing an international negotiating committee for a legally binding global agreement on plastics.** The EU aims for an agreement that takes a circular, life-cycle approach to plastics as outlined in the [Circular Economy Action Plan](#). Given the global nature of plastic pollution, only coordinated efforts at global level are an effective way to address this problem.
- ❖ **Creating a Science-Policy Panel for Chemicals, Waste and Pollution**, which will provide similar support in dealing with these problems as the [IPCC](#), [IPBES](#) and [IRP](#) provide, respectively, to climate, biodiversity and natural resource policies.
- ❖ **Defining and promoting nature-based solutions.** Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems. They simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Currently, the lack of an internationally agreed definition of nature-based solutions hampers progress in various negotiation processes and can lead to 'greenwashing' and wrong classification of activities. The EU will be working for a common definition which would facilitate discussions at COP15 and in other UN settings, such as the UN Climate Convention.

The conference should provide **guidance to other global processes**, such as climate negotiations, negotiations on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (COP15) and post-2020 chemicals and waste framework, seeking to stimulate ambitious outcomes.

Further information: [EU at UN Environment Assembly \(europa.eu\)](#)

## EUROPEAN UNION



# LATEST NEWS

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### Europe and Latin America & the Caribbean: together for a greener, safer and fairer future

Leaders of the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) met virtually with one main goal: to resume the dialogue and strengthen cooperation to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. President Michel and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, represented the EU, with the participation of the HR/VP Josep Borrell. Latin American and Caribbean partners were represented by the heads of state or government of LAC countries holding the presidencies of regional and sub-regional organisations in 2021: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Suriname.

This is the first meeting at this level in 6 years and sends a strong message of the political commitment to join forces to tackle common global and regional challenges. HRVP Josep Borrell has consistently insisted on the geo-political importance of working more closely with LAC. The informal EU-LAC Foreign Ministerial Meeting in Berlin December 2020, and his visit to the region, have contributed to the momentum to relaunch high-level political engagement. With 1/3 of the United Nations and 7 members in the G20, the [EU and LAC can do more to](#) shape the global agenda and build back a greener, safer and fairer future for all.

### Great minds come together

The EU and LAC are ready to step up their game with a new [joint strategy](#) for research & innovation. From finding cures, to cleaning our planet and the opening of new digital highways, scientists from the two regions are working closer than ever before.

To support this unprecedented step forward, the new Horizon Europe programme stands ready to finance research of the best scientific minds in Europe and LAC. Building on the success of Horizon 2020 and its €1.6 billion support to EU-LAC research projects, the newly launched Horizon Europe is taking openness to another level. From [safeguarding our food](#) production to [connecting the remotest areas](#) of the Amazon rainforest - the nearly 500 joint research projects over the past seven years tell a remarkable story. The EU funding is making a difference where it matters, opening new opportunities for innovative and sustainable lives in the digital future.

Further information [here](#).

### EU ministers reinforce the need for common values and principles in international research and innovation

European research ministers strongly supported the need to respect fundamental values and principles in international research and innovation, as set out in the EU's [global approach to research and innovation](#) (R&I) and taking into account synergies with higher education. In this context, they unequivocally condemned the Russian illegal and unjustified invasion of Ukraine as an attack on the elementary values of freedom, democracy, sovereignty and respect for international order, on which academic and scientific freedom and cooperation are based.

Following the EU Global Approach to research and innovation European Ministers and Commissioner Gabriel discussed key values and principles for international cooperation in research and innovation and expressed their intention to launch a dialogue on the issue with international partners. The ministers and the Commissioner took the opportunity of the conference to affirm the full support and solidarity of the EU's R&I community towards Ukraine and its scientific community, and noted the timeliness of the dialogue on values in international cooperation.

The French Presidency presented the "[Marseille Declaration](#)", setting out its proposals for a common understanding of the values and principles for international cooperation in research, innovation and higher education. These include issues such as freedom of scientific research, ethics and integrity, gender equality, and open science.

Further information [here](#).

## EUROPEAN UNION



## European Commission selects first 50 women-led companies to boost deep-tech innovation in Europe

The European Commission announced the results of the first call under the new [Women TechEU](#) pilot programme, supporting deep-tech start-ups led by women. The call is funded under the [European Innovation Ecosystems](#) work programme of [Horizon Europe](#), the EU research and innovation programme.

Women TechEU is a brand new initiative of the European Union. The scheme offers grants, worth €75,000 each, to support the initial steps in the innovation process, and the growth of the company. It also offers mentoring and coaching under the [European Innovation Council \(EIC\) Women Leadership Programme](#), and EU-wide networking opportunities.

Following the evaluation by independent experts, the Commission will be supporting a first cohort of 50 women-led companies from 15 different countries. Over 40 companies are based in EU Member States, including one fifth from [Horizon Europe widening countries](#). Also, roughly one fifth are based in countries associated to Horizon Europe.

The companies proposed for funding have developed cutting-edge and disruptive innovations, across a range of areas, from early cancer diagnosis and treatments, all the way to reducing the negative impact of methane emissions. They address sustainable development goals (SDGs), like tackling climate change, reducing food waste, as well as widening access to education and empowering women.

Projects will start in spring 2022 and are expected to run for 6 to 12 months. The women leaders will be enrolled onto the European Innovation Council's [Women Leadership Programme](#) for tailored coaching and mentoring activities.

Following the very encouraging response to this first pilot, the Commission will renew the Women TechEU programme in 2022. The budget for the next call will be increased to €10 million, which will fund roughly 130 companies (up from 50 this year). The call will be launched in 2022.

Further information: [Commission selects first 50 women-led companies \(europa.eu\)](#)

## LATEST NEWS

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# LATEST NEWS

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### Argentina and Germany consolidate scientific cooperation ties

The president of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), Ana Franchi and the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Marian Schuegraf met to identify the challenges in scientific research in the region, strengthen bilateral cooperation and the possibility of exchange of researchers between both countries.

Franchi highlighted some of the historical background of scientific collaboration with Germany and highlighted the work carried out by the **Argentine German Geodesy Observatory (AGGO, CONICET-BKG)**, a space managed together with the science agency and the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy of Germany (BKG, for its acronym in German) and what has been achieved from the **Biomedicine Research Institute of Buenos Aires (IbioBA)**, which was born within the framework of a fruitful relationship between CONICET and the Max Planck Society of Germany (MPS).

The German diplomat expressed her interest in the experience and recognition at regional and international level of the work of CONICET researchers and the essential of enriching scientific cooperation with projects between Argentina and Germany.

Further information: [Argentina and Germany consolidate ties of scientific cooperation | CONICET](#)

## ARGENTINA



### Pulsar digital platform launched 2022 programming on 4th March

The [streaming platform pulsar](#), created by the National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation (R&D&I Agency), presented its 2022 programme on the 4th March. The launch took place in the Science Hall of Tecnópolis in person and with prior registration.

**Pulsar** is a digital platform dedicated entirely to content on science, technology and innovation of free and open access, with agile, short-term and fun productions.

The platform seeks to promote the closeness that science and technology have with daily life. The objective is to build interdisciplinary bridges, highlight the links between knowledge and production, and, in addition, provide tools for the solution of everyday problems.

Further information: [Pulsate \(campuspulsar.gov.ar\)](#)

### The Plan for the Promotion of Science and Technology for Innovative SMEs of the R&D&I Agency was launched

In an act held in the "Zero + Infinity" Building of the UBA in Ciudad Universitaria headed by the President of the Nation, Alberto Fernández together with the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Daniel Filmus, the president of CONICET, Ana Franchi, the president of the R&D&I Agency, Fernando Peirano and the member of the Board of Directors of the R&D&I Agency, Alejandra Zinni, presented the Plan for the Promotion of Science and Technology for Innovative SMEs of the R&D&I Agency with investments of around 15 billion pesos that will be promoted from the National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation (R + D + i Agency) during this year.

The plan presented by the Head of State began to be executed with the award of 6,000 million pesos to projects that will be carried out in scientific institutions and universities throughout the country. It will also promote actions aimed at SMEs and technological initiatives that can provide solutions to the structural problems of our social and economic development.

Before starting the event, President Alberto Fernández together with Filmus, Franchi, Peirano and other authorities, toured the facilities of "Zero + Infinity", a state-of-the-art building aimed at strengthening Argentine science and research. The construction has 17,200 square meters and has a sustainable design and capacity to accommodate more than 3,000 researchers and students.

Further information: [The Plan for the Promotion of Science and Technology for Innovative SMEs of the R&D&I Agency was launched | CONICET](#)



## BRAZIL

### MCTI discloses investments of almost R\$ 1 billion for science, technology and national innovation

The Federal Government, through the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (MCTI), will allocate almost R\$ 1 billion in resources for the development of research, payment of scholarships and other actions in favor of science, technology and innovation in the country. The announcement was made by Minister astronaut Marcos Pontes during mission of MCTI to the Heart Institute, in the city of São Paulo (SP).

The figures come from the decontingency of the National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development (FNDCT), and will support studies from different areas, such as biotechnology, internet of things, immunization production, agriculture and health.

Among the new investments, there are R\$ 43 million for the Human Resources Program in Strategic Areas (RHAE), the investment of R\$ 280 million in the 102 participants of the National Institutes of Science and Technology (INCT) program, and the more than R\$ 650 million that will be used in projects approved by public calls from CNPq, the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, linked to the MCTI.

Further information: [MCTI announces investments of almost R\\$ 1 billion for science, technology and national innovation - Portuguese \(Brazil\) \(www.gov.br\)](http://www.gov.br)

### MCTI and WHO sign agreement for mutual cooperation on topics relevant to science, technology and innovation in health

A memorandum of understanding of collaboration between the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (MCTI) and the World Health Organization (WHO) was signed on the 4th March in Geneva, Switzerland.

The decision to sign the document stemmed from the interest expressed by the WHO in the research and development (R&D) activities promoted by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic in the fields of science, technology and innovation in health, such as the creation of the MCTI Virus Network, development of national vaccines, monitoring and sequencing of the virus and several other measures of the folder during this period. With a preliminary duration of 10 years, the memorandum will foster joint activities for the research and development of vaccines, treatments, diagnostics and medical equipment, focusing on antimicrobial resistance and neglected tropical diseases. Genomic sequencing of pathogens, the application of artificial intelligence and digital health are also among the possibilities of collaboration between the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations and WHO. In addition to addressing more urgent issues, such as the confrontation of Covid-19, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding may enable the strengthening of Brazil's capacity and, in case of possible developments, of other countries in the so-called Global South in monitoring, preparing and responding to other epidemics. As a result, collaborative activities could result in measures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG3, on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all, at all ages.

The collaboration between the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations and WHO provides for: joint studies, dialogues and policy analyses and evaluations; research, development, innovations, knowledge solutions, infrastructures, joint seminars and conferences and, where possible, regular exchange of data, data access, publications and reports prepared by each member; strengthening of international and regional networks for the generation and dissemination of knowledge and research, for strengthening the implementation of regional and sub-regional programs and projects; regular sharing of information on the respective priorities of each organisation and annual technical meetings to agree specific areas of work.

Further information [here](#).

## LATEST NEWS

### LAC AND

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# LATEST NEWS

## LAC AND

## EUROPEAN UNION

### **MCTI signs Brazil's accession agreement as a member of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)**

The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovations, astronaut Marcos Pontes, signed on the 3rd March, in Meyrin, on the Franco-Switzerland border, the agreement of accession of Brazil as an Associate Member of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). "This agreement is a 12-year wait from the scientific community and also from the productive sector in Brazil. This participation in CERN has an annual investment that will be covered by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations. It is certainly an investment with very high return for the country and has very good positive implications for the future of science, technology and innovations in the country", said the minister of MCTI.

The organization is recognized for research in high energy physics and is considered one of the largest and most advanced scientific centers in the world. CERN has 23 full member states, 9 associated countries and 3 countries with observer status, with the participation of thousands of scientists from more than a hundred nationalities. CERN's greatest achievements include proof of the Higgs boson ("God particle"), construction of the LHC (Great Hadronic Collider), the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator, the invention of the World Wide Web (www) in 1989, and experiments and discoveries on antimatter.

Most of the technologies used at CERN are developed in partnership with industry, through research and development (R&D) contracts, service and material delivery. With the accession of Brazil, Brazilian companies will be able to participate in the bidding of contracts made available by the organization. According to annual reports, spending on contracts and orders with the industry has reached, on average, about US\$ 500 million in recent years.

Further information: [MCTI signs Brazil's accession agreement as a member of the European Organization for Nuclear Research \(CERN\) - Portuguese \(Brazil\) \(www.gov.br\)](#)

### **Edible, biodegradable, anti-microbial plastic boasts higher tensile strength than petroleum-based plastic**

Agência FAPESP – Disposal of food packaging is a major cause of environmental pollution worldwide. More than 350 million metric tons of plastic are produced every year, and 85% of the garbage dumped in the oceans is plastic, according to estimates. Brazil is the fourth-largest producer, accounting for some 11 million metric tons per year. To make matters worse, most plastic packaging is derived from non-renewables such as petroleum.

Given all these drawbacks, reducing the use of fossil fuels to produce plastic is the target of a great deal of research around the world. Many scientists are working on the development of biodegradable packaging materials that also prevent contamination by microorganisms and extend shelf life so as to reduce losses.

A study conducted by a research team called the Composites and Hybrid Nanocomposites Group (GCNH) at São Paulo State University (UNESP) in Ilha Solteira has produced an important contribution to this effort. It was supported by FAPESP, and an article reporting its findings is published in the journal *Polymers*.

The researchers made their bioplastic (or "green plastic", as it is also known) from type B bovine gelatin easily found in retail stores in the form of a colorless powder.

Further information: [Edible, biodegradable, anti-microbial plastic boasts higher tensile strength than petroleum-based plastic | AGÊNCIA FAPESP](#)

## BRAZIL



# LATEST NEWS

## LAC AND

## EUROPEAN UNION

### Scientists from the ANID CGNA Center develop lupine biopesticide

Scientists at the Center for Agroaquaculture Nutritional Genomics ([CGNA](#)) have developed a natural biopesticide against pests and diseases from lupine. This new non-chemical alternative **will reduce the use of chemical pesticides in agriculture and contribute to the sustainability of the agro-industrial sector.**

It is a biopesticide based on specific combinations and concentrations of molecules of lupine alkaloids - organic compound of plants- which "when formulated and applied in different crops replicates the natural effect of pest repellency", explained Haroldo Salvo-Garrido, doctor in genomics and scientific director of the [CGNA](#).

"While this research is soon to be concluded, the repellent properties of lupine biopesticide have already been proven in pests of importance," the expert added. Further research on aphids in horticultural species and some bacteria of importance for export fruit will soon be concluded.

Likewise, "a semi-industrial processing technology was developed, which allows the process to be carried out on a commercial scale, efficiently extracting the alkaloid molecules, so as not to alter their properties," said Dr. Salvo-Garrido.

According to Mauricio Opazo, PhD in Food Process Engineering from the [CGNA](#), it is a technological process that allows all the alkaloids of interest to be extracted.

"It allows its concentration and purification obtaining an extract with a purity greater than 90%, which makes it optimal for product formulations," said Opazo.

Further information: [Scientists from the ANID CGNA Center develop lupine biopesticide | ANID](#)

### 5th Latin America Energy Summit

Registration: <https://www.lataenergysummit.com/laes-register>

The annual **Latin America Energy Summit** will take place in person on **April 20-21, 2022 in Santiago, Chile** and gather regional energy companies, engineering firms, infrastructure project developers, construction companies, investors and government officials to discuss opportunities revolving around the evolving energy industry in Latin America

During the two day conference, industry experts and colleagues from **Chile, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Canada, the United States and Europe**, discuss the evolving business opportunities related to energy in Latin America. Significant attention is placed on the infrastructure projects related to renewable energy from wind, solar, and hydroelectric sources, as well as the role of hydrocarbons and natural gas in fueling power plant demand as well as transportation logistics.

Competitiveness and increased productivity are crucial in today's operating environment. Don't miss this unique opportunity to develop the strategic business relationships necessary to succeed in this market.

Further information: <https://www.lataenergysummit.com/latin-america-electric-power-event>

## CHILE





## LATEST NEWS

### LAC AND

### EUROPEAN UNION

#### Regional Committees on Science, Technology and Innovation for Development

The Ministry of Science reported that, to date, 6 Regional Committees of Science, Technology and Innovation (CTi) for Development have already been constituted in the country: these correspond to the regions of Valparaíso, O'Higgins, Biobío, Los Ríos and Los Lagos and Aysén.

As explained by the Minister of Science, Andrés Couve, the Regional Committees of CTi are part of the legal framework [of the Law on Strengthening Regionalization](#) and have the mandate to elaborate strategies of Science, Technology and Innovation following the national definitions in the matter, but adding in turn the necessary local perspective. All this, with the aim of promoting the generation of knowledge and its application in the problems that arise in the different areas of Chile.

According to the regulations, the Regional Committees are made up of the Governor, the president of the Commission in charge of the issues of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Regional Council and the Seremis of Science, Economy and Education. Together with them, and through a public call, three designated members from academia, research centers, technological institutes, technical training centers, representatives of the private sector, entrepreneurs with a scientific-technological base or civil society are integrated.

Further Information: [News \(minciencia.gob.cl\)](#)

#### Study Identifies the Main Macroeconomic Effects of A Transition to The Circular Economy in Latin America

With the aim of disseminating and discussing the results of the study that seeks to analyze the effects of the transition, the Webinar "Macroeconomic effects of the transition to the circular economy in Latin American countries" was held. The study was developed as part of the contribution provided by the European Union (EU), through its EUROCLIMA+ program, to Chile in its role as Presidency of COP 25, and was carried out by *Econometría Consultores*, with the support of ECLAC and circular economy specialists from different countries in the region. The event was attended by decision makers from Latin American governments and other stakeholders in the subject of the circular economy.

The study delves into the effects of this transition in the countries of the Pacific Alliance in four key sectors: plastics, metals, construction materials and fuels, together with the presentation of a macroeconomic model to analyze its effects.

The circular economy aims to improve efficiency in production and consumption systems, to reduce the extraction of new resources, and thus avoid negative impacts on ecosystems. This is also considered a policy that boosts sustainable development with a high potential to contribute to a transformative recovery and a lower environmental footprint. The circular economy not only contributes to preserving the value of materials and products for as long as possible, reducing waste generation and closing its life cycle, but also has the capacity to generate impacts on employment, GDP growth, imports and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Soon, the study will be published in [https://cop25ue.mma.gob.cl/\(link is external\)](https://cop25ue.mma.gob.cl/(link%20is%20external)) and in <https://www.cepal.org/es>. The webinar is available on the [Euroclima+ YouTube](#).

Further information: [Study identifies the main macroeconomic effects of a transition to the circular economy in Latin America - European External Action Service \(europa.eu\)](#)

# LATEST NEWS

## LAC AND

## EUROPEAN UNION

### Colombia continues to pave the way to promote scientific, technological and innovation cooperation with Latin American countries

With the aim of leveraging scientific research and technological development initiatives in Colombia and Argentina, the Ministers of Science, Technology and Innovation of both countries, Tito José Crissien Borrero and Daniel Fernando Filmus, signed a Memorandum of Understanding, that is, a document expressing the intention to undertake common lines of action.

The technical teams of each of the Ministries will work on the design of a schedule of activities, to advance in the following topics:

- ❖ Implementation of joint research projects in areas of cooperation of common interest.
- ❖ Organization of seminars, specialized workshops, scientific and technological *symposium*.
- ❖ Activities of scientific exchange and formation of human capital, generation of scientific vocations and social appropriation of knowledge.
- ❖ Transfer of good practices and exchange of knowledge.

The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding took place within the framework of the visit of the senior Colombian official to Uruguay and Argentina. With this new signature, there are already several cooperation instruments signed with public and private entities of these nations. Each of the documents will allow to draw a roadmap focused on the development of the following key issues, following the recommendations delivered by the Mission of the Wise of Colombia:

- ❖ Converged Technologies – Industries 4.0
- ❖ Sustainable energy
- ❖ Biotechnology, environment and bioeconomy
- ❖ Oceans and hydrobiological resources
- ❖ Social sciences and human development with equity
- ❖ Life and health sciences
- ❖ Basic and space sciences

Further information: [Colombia continues to pave the way to promote scientific, technological and innovation cooperation with Latin American countries | Minciencias](#)

### Minciencias launched four calls for more than \$114 billion

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation opened four calls for \$114 billion, from the General Royalty System, to promote new knowledge in the field of Oceans and Hydrobiological Resources, development of innovations that integrate Convergent Technologies and Industry 4.0, the promotion of Creative and Cultural Industries through Research + Creation and Doctoral Training in the regions.

The calls focused on Oceans and Hydrobiological Resources, Convergent Technologies and Industry 4.0, Creative and Cultural Industries address the recommendations of the International Mission of the Wise and are aimed at alliances, in which academia, business, state and civil society participate.

Through these calls, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation plans to carry out two scientific expeditions in the Colombian Pacific and Caribbean, the development of scientific articles on topics such as marine and oceanographic biodiversity, groundwater, freshwater resources, fisheries and mitigation, management of climate change risk, prototypes for development and interconnectivity of carbon-free energies, support for creative and cultural ventures, among other results.

On the other hand, in the call focused on Doctoral Training in the regions, 644 forgivable educational credits will be granted for doctoral programs in the lines of: research, innovation and environment and sustainable development.

Further information: [Minciencias launched four calls for more than \\$114 billion | Minciencias](#)

## COLOMBIA



# LATEST NEWS

## LAC AND

## EUROPEAN UNION

## URUGUAY

### COLOMBIA

#### Colombia hosted the first Ibero-American Forum on Scientific Diplomacy

In the framework of the first Ibero-American Forum of Scientific Diplomacy, which was held in Colombia, the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Tito José Crissien Borrero, presented the importance of strengthening Scientific Diplomacy, and how through it is intended to meet the objectives established in the public policy of Science, Technology and Innovation and progress is being made in complying with the recommendations of the International Mission of the Wise.

*"Colombia sees the development of Science Diplomacy as an opportunity to face global challenges, among which are climate change, global health and the fourth industrial revolution. These challenges must be addressed by States together. For this reason, from Minciencias and, together, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we have joined forces to advance in the inclusion of Scientific Diplomacy as an important tool within foreign policy, with the purpose of making it part of a State policy in the future,"* said Minister Crissien Borrero.

Taking into account the importance of Science Diplomacy for the development of Ibero-American countries, the Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs, María Carmelina Londoño, highlighted why scientific and innovation policies for development must be aligned. *"In the context that the world is going through today, thinking about renewable energies, sustainable energy development and the best use of water resources end up being a priority for self-sufficiency. In all these areas we have the possibility of building scientific networks between our countries, promoting joint progress in Ibero-America,"* said Londoño.

Further information: [Colombia hosted the first Ibero-American Forum on Science Diplomacy | Minciencias](#)

#### ANII once again expands free access to scientific journals for all Uruguayans through the Timbó Portal

Through the [Timbó Portal](#) of the National Agency for Research in Innovation any researcher, student, teacher, amateur, worker or company based in Uruguay can access the main scientific publications in the world in all areas of research, free of charge, simple and just by registering on the site. This tool promotes the generation of knowledge in Uruguay and is key to the development of science, technology and innovation as the engine of the productive country.

The Timbó Portal once again offers access to the scientific journals distributed by the Elsevier publishing house, one of the main scientific publishers in the world. The agreement ensures the availability of these contents for four years, from January 2022 to December 2025 and is reached after the Board of Directors of the ANII proposed to improve the conditions of the previous contracts, maintaining the contents identified as priority or fundamental by the national science and technology system.

In parallel, ANII promotes free and unrestricted access to publications resulting from national research through the network of institutional repositories of open access in science and technology and its [SILO](#) portal. SILO gathers the results of research and development activities collected by the open access repositories of the member institutions, standardizes and provides data to regional and global aggregators to increase their visibility. In turn, ANII offers its open access repository [REDI](#) to institutions dedicated to scientific research that do not have their own repositories, to promote their integration into SILO. The Ceibal Foundation is the first institution to be integrated into the system in this modality.

Further information: [ANII | National Agency for Research and Innovation - ANII once again expands free access to scientific journals for all Uruguayans through the Timbó Portal](#)

# LATEST NEWS

## LAC AND

## EUROPEAN UNION

### Uruguay Accelerates Public Innovation with The Support of ANII

Through the "[public challenges](#)" tool, various State agencies have linked to the ANII in order to find new solutions to improve public services. Such is the case of the Ministry of Environment, and the URSEC. These actors, through the Public Innovation Program of ANII and IDB Lab, will seek to find innovative solutions to previously identified problems.

Challenges seek to solve relevant problems that affect efficiency, scope or quality in public services with the aim of improving them.

To help them find such solutions, ANII enables an open call (s. Open Call section p.14: **MA Challenge: Information technologies applied to waste**) for potential solution proposals so that private companies individually or in conjunction with technology centers, academic organizations, or other ecosystem actors linked to research and innovation, receive non-reimbursable financial support for the development of the prototype of the solution.

Further information: [ANII | National Agency for Research and Innovation - URUGUAY ACCELERATES PUBLIC INNOVATION WITH THE SUPPORT OF ANII](#)

### AUCI Promotes the Transfer of Knowledge and Good Practices in The Promotion of Strategic Alliances

In agreement with the team of the Office of Strategic Alliances (ORP) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the representative of that institution in Uruguay, Matías Bendersky; On February 8, 9 and 10, internal training sessions were held at the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI), in order to exchange experiences and transfer good practices.

The training reached the heads of areas of the AUCI in order to deepen the knowledge of the areas, programs, lines, strategies of action to achieve financing opportunities and give greater visibility to international cooperation. Some relevant cases such as cooperation work with South Korea, Green Funds and other instruments were also reviewed.

Likewise, a closed day of work was held with various institutional actors such as the OPP, the BCU, Inacoop, MTOP, the INE, the MEF, the MIEM, the ANII, the Ministry of Environment, the Sembrando program and Uruguay XXI.

The [Office of Strategic Partnerships](#) (PROs) is responsible for strengthening the dialogue and partnerships forged by the Bank with other members of the development community, including trust fund donors, co-financing counterparts, and the private sector. The RFO is divided into the Europe Office, the Asia Office, the Resource Mobilization Division and the Grants and Co-Financing Management Unit.

Further information [here](#).

## URUGUAY





# SCHOLARSHIPS

## FUNDING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## EU PUBLIC CALLS

### 4th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI 2022

**Call opening date:** Monday, 24 January 2022

**Call closing date:** Thursday, 28 April 2022

The EU-LAC Interest Group towards the Common Research Area launched a new Joint Call to enhance bi-regional cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

The aim of the Joint Call is to initiate sustainable and multilateral research cooperation between researchers from Europe, Latin-America and the Caribbean countries. Transnational consortia are invited to submit proposals related to six topics in the thematic fields of Global Challenges, Health, Biodiversity, and Energy, which have been defined in collaboration with the EU funded projects [EU-LAC ResInfra](#), [EULAC PerMed](#) and [SINCERE](#). One of the specificities is the inclusion of four topics based on sharing large Research Infrastructures. Projects will be funded for up to 36 months.

The following funding agencies confirmed their participation:

- **Austria:** Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung, BMBWF
- **Bolivia:** Ministerio de Educación - Vice Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología, MINEDU
- **Brazil:** Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico, CNPq
- **Brazil:** Conselho Nacional das Fundações Estaduais de Amparo à Pesquisa, CONFAP
- **Dom. Rep.:** Ministerio de Educación Superior, Ciencia y Tecnología, MESCyT

- **Germany:** Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF
- **Italy:** Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, CNR
- **Panama:** Secretaria Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación, SENACYT
- **Peru:** Consejo Nacional de Ciencia Tecnología e Innovación Tecnológica, CONCYTEC
- **Poland:** Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju, NCBR
- **Portugal:** Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, FCT
- **Spain:** Instituto de Salud Carlos III
- **Spain:** Agencia Estatal de Investigación, AEI
- **Turkey:** Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu, TÜBİTAK
- **Uruguay:** Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación, ANII

### Europe - Latin American & Caribbean RTI Networking & Matchmaking Platform

Applicants searching for potential EU and/or Latin American & Caribbean project partners are invited to register for free at the online [ENRICH in LAC Matchmaking platform](#).

Please find all call information at: <https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-call/4th-eu-lac-joint-call-sti-2022>

For further information, please look up to [page 17](#) or contact: [Anneken.Reise@dlr.de](mailto:Anneken.Reise@dlr.de)

A close-up photograph of a human eye with a blue iris, overlaid with a semi-transparent digital grid pattern in shades of blue and green. The grid consists of concentric circles and radial lines, suggesting a focus on technology, data, or scientific observation.

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## EU PUBLIC CALLS

### CNPQ/MCTI Opens Call For ATTO Tower Projects

CNPq/MCTI has an open call to support international R&D projects using the infrastructure of the Observatory of the High Tower of the Amazon (ATTO tower). The deadline for submission to the call is April 28.

The call has four main goals:

- Promote six international R&D projects on the interactions between soil, climate and forest;
- Facilitate the access of Brazilian researchers to the ATTO tower, in cooperation with international partners, especially from Germany and Norway.
- Stimulate international cooperation for research on the Amazon;
- Strengthen the exchange of researchers and bilateral cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovation.

For more information about the call, go to here [the CNPq website](#).

### More information about ATTO tower:

THE ATTO (Observatory of the High Tower of the Amazon) is a platform for long-term measurements of climatic, biogeochemical and atmospheric conditions in the Amazon in the coming decades. In addition to long-term monitoring that helps provide data on the regional exchange between forest and atmosphere, ATTO offers opportunities for process studies aimed at elucidating the feedback between forest and climate, attributing causes to observed variations and trends, and improving the representation of tropical forests in terrestrial system models. It also improves the general understanding of the function and dynamics of intact tropical forests in central Amazonia, and how they can be influenced by climate change and increased CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

For more information about the infrastructure go to

<https://nuvem.cnpq.br/index.php/s/aNX8ddN573xtj96>



## SCHOLARSHIPS

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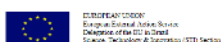
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## EU PUBLIC CALLS

## List of Horizon Europe Calls targeting LAC region

The Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Section of the Delegation of the EU in Brazil published an **Indicative List of calls of the 1st Work-Programme (2021-2022) of Horizon Europe with focus on International Cooperation, Brazil and Latin America** and is available [here](#).

Please note that this list is not intended to be exhaustive and does not engage the European Commission. The aim is to provide an indication of the calls where BR or LAC countries participation are desired or required. The Horizon Europe programme has an openness principle and many other calls are available on the [Funding&Tenders Portal](#).



Indicative List of calls of the EU R&I programme, Horizon Europe with focus on International Cooperation, Brazil and Latin America 1<sup>st</sup> Work-Programme (2021-2022)

WIP part	topic code with hyperlink	topic title	Type of action	Open and close	Int'l Coop?	Specific countries or regions targeted	References to international coop in topic's text
CLUSTERS	<a href="#">HORIZON-CIS-2020-TRANSFORMATIONS-0100</a>	Public policies and indicators for well-being and sustainable development	RIA	10/03/2022 20/04/2022	YES	Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America	Proposals should cover a broad range of European countries (also the regions depending where appropriate), as well as a sufficient number of non-European countries (e.g. from Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America) for ensuring an international character of the projects. The international cooperation is strongly encouraged.
CLUSTER	<a href="#">HORIZON-CIS-2020-0204-01</a>	Digital solutions for shifting enterprise IT infrastructure to the cloud	RIA	16/05/2022 31/10/2022	YES (required)	Mexico, investment countries	The consortium must include as a beneficiary or sub-contractor a company established in a Mexican investment country, not being Member State or Associated Country.
CLUSTER	<a href="#">HORIZON-CIS-2020-0204-02</a>	Open innovation practices for scaling up sustainable startups	RIA	01/06/2022 10/04/2022	YES	Mexico, investment countries	International cooperation with Mexican investment countries is required.

## MA Challenge: Information technologies applied to waste

Traceability within the framework of the **Latin American Network of Innovation Agencies (RELAI)**, ANII together with **IDB Lab** and the **Ministry of Environment**, seek to obtain a traceability prototype that allows monitoring of waste management, covering from generation, transport, pre-recycling conditioning operations, processing for recycling, to treatment or final disposal.

Proposals aligned with the stream of industrial and assimilated solid waste (solid waste category I - [Decree No. 182/013](#)) may be submitted. The solution should allow the tracking of waste for both the generator and the Ministry of Environment through systems that use georeferenced data and real-time information transmission.

Private sector companies may participate in this challenge individually or jointly with organizations that are based in the country, or through the generation of alliances with companies or organizations based abroad. The selected solution will be able to access a total financing of up to **UYU 4,260,000** and will have a maximum term of up to 6 months for its development. This call for solution prototype projects will be open until **Monday, April 18, 2022** at 2 p.m.

For inquiries about this challenge you can contact [desafioambiente@anii.org.uy](mailto:desafioambiente@anii.org.uy) or visit <https://innovacionpublica.anii.org.uy/desafios/trazabilidad-inteligente>.

# SCHOLARSHIPS

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## EU PUBLIC CALLS

### 33rd CORNET Call open for proposals

Submission of project proposals is possible until **30 March 2022, 12 p.m. (CET)**, via the CORNET [Submission Tool](#).

For application, please use the latest [templates](#) for the current call.

#### Call Details

The call is organised by CORNET (**CO**llective **RE**search **NET**working). The partners in CORNET are national or regional ministries and funding organisations from various countries facilitating international cooperation on the basis of their respective national and regional funding schemes.

#### Basic concepts of the CORNET Calls and collaboration between programmes

This CORNET Call for Proposals is based on existing funding programmes for (collective) research in the participating countries/regions. As for the previous CORNET Calls, the added value is to make international collaboration possible for these national/regional programmes, whereby every project participant will be funded by the funding organisation of their own country or region.

This implies that rules for participation and funding in CORNET are basically the same as the ones currently applicable in the national/regional programmes of the various participating countries/regions. Therefore, different rules may apply to participants within one project consortium.

An overview of the national/regional programmes and their eligibility criteria can be found on the following [CORNET website](#).

#### Type of activities that can be funded

The main types of targeted activities are:

- industrial research and development;
- applied research and development.

In some countries/regions, the following activities can also be funded:

- Demonstrations;
- technology/knowledge transfer;
- dissemination workshops and training.

An overview of the national funding programmes of all participating CORNET partners can be found on the following [CORNET website](#). For more details please contact the respective national/regional funding organisation.

#### Participating Funding Agencies

33<sup>rd</sup> Call: budgets and programmes

Find your country:

- [Austria](#)
- [Belgium-Flanders](#)
- [Belgium-Wallonia](#)
- [Brazil](#)
- [Canada-Québec](#)
- [Germany](#)
- [Peru](#)
- [Poland](#)
- [Switzerland](#)
- [Taiwan](#)
- [Turkey](#)



# SCHOLARSHIPS

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### The 29th IraSME call for proposals for transnational R&D projects is open

The 29<sup>th</sup> IraSME call for proposals for transnational R&D projects is open from 1 December 2021 until 30 March 2022. This call is organised and funded by national and regional ministries and agencies participating in the IraSME network through their respective funding programmes.

#### General information:

When applying for IraSME calls for proposals, please note that applicants are strictly advised to consult with their local agencies at an early stage during the preparation of their proposals in order to secure compliance with the applicable national and regional criteria. Eligibility rules, application and funding details vary between countries/regions.

#### What activities IraSME fund:

- Development of new products, processes or technical services.
- Technical development from the first idea to a possible prototype.
- R&D with significant technical risks for each funded partner.
- Minimum constellation: 2 companies from 2 participating countries/regions.

#### Countries / Regions Participating in the 29th call:

- Austria
- Brazil
- Flanders (Belgium)
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- Russia
- Turkey
- Wallonia (Belgium)

#### Submission

The IraSME application form (+ draft of CA and GANNT chart) has to be submitted via e-mail to [info@ira-sme.net](mailto:info@ira-sme.net) until the **call deadline of 30 March 2022**.

Submissions after the deadline cannot be accepted.

Further information and call documents can be found [here](#).

# EU-LAC interest group

LATEST WEBINAR

4th Joint Call in STI 2022

## INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS TO THE 4TH EU-LAC JOINT CALL

### Info-Session on the 4th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI

On Thursday 17th February 2022 the EU-LAC Interest Group invited all interested researchers and stakeholders to participate in an info-session on the **4th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI**, providing information on topics such as rules for participation and the online submission process.

The EU-LAC Interest Group towards the Common Research Area launches a new Joint Call to enhance the bi-regional cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

**Call opening date: Monday, 24 January 2022**

**Call closing date: Thursday, 28 April 2022**

The aim of the Joint Call is to initiate sustainable and multilateral research cooperation between researchers from Europe, Latin-America and the Caribbean countries. Transnational consortia are invited to submit proposals related to the following 6 topics in the thematic fields of **Global Challenges, Health, Biodiversity, and Energy**.

Proposals must be submitted online in English following the [Guide for Applicants](#).

The application consists of two parts, the Project Description Template form and the online submission form accessible at <https://ptoutline.eu/app/eu-lac-2022>.

Online material of the **Info-Session on the 4th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI** is available under the following links:

Presentation: [https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/documents/info-session\\_presentation\\_4th\\_eu-lac\\_joint\\_call.pdf](https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/sites/default/files/documents/info-session_presentation_4th_eu-lac_joint_call.pdf)

Recordings: <https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-call/4th-eu-lac-joint-call-sti-2022#videojs-988-field-video-mp4-video>

Further call information: <https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-call/4th-eu-lac-joint-call-sti-2022>

### Videos

4th EU-LAC Joint Call: Info-Session



### 4th Multi-Thematic EU-LAC Joint Call in STI 2022

Open EU&LAC  
4<sup>th</sup> Joint Call In STI

# ESDN REPORT:

## PARLIAMENTARY MECHANISMS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

*Summary by Maria Kretschmer, Fraunhofer IPK*



The [European Sustainable Development Network \(ESDN\)](#), which is an informal network of public administrators and other experts dealing with sustainable development, has recently published a report on [Parliamentary Mechanisms in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda](#). The report comprises a study of 30 parliaments in Europe and how they are involved in their country's SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) implementation.

### Role of Parliaments

Although the mandate for implementing the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) lies with the executive branch of each country, parliaments play an important role in ensuring a just and representative process. Thus, the role of parliaments is described in § 45 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the following way:

*'We acknowledge also the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of*

*budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments. Governments and public institutions will also work closely on implementation with regional and local authorities, subregional institutions, international institutions, academia, philanthropic organizations, volunteer groups and others' (2030 Agenda, p. 11)*

In addition, parliaments have their own targets as part of SDG 16 *Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions* with Target 16.6 (Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels) and 16.7 (Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels). The ESDN Report focused on the question on how European parliaments can fulfil their role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, it was examined how the different mechanisms for involvement work, what different strategies are used by parliamentarians and how the participation of citizens can be ensured. A particular focus was on how parliaments can use their four

main functions, which are also mentioned in §45 of the 2030 Agenda quoted above: **Legislation, Budget, Oversight** and **Representation** of Civil Society.

### Functional Categories for Parliamentary Involvement in SDG Implementation

Although parliamentarians have different tools at their disposal, depending on the national institutional mechanisms, to work towards the implementation of the SDGs in their country, the following functional categories can generally be distinguished.

**Legislation:** Parliamentarians play a critical role in ensuring that sustainability issues are an essential part of a country's legal framework to the extent that a parliament with a mandate to initiate legislation can directly contribute to achieving the SDGs by proposing draft legislation. Since not all parliaments have this option, parliaments can, however, evaluate and analyze laws in terms of their suitability to achieve the SDGs. This can be done by parliamentary committees or the parliamentary administration. Ideally, this could include an impact assessment for new legislation that covers both sustainable development and human rights issues. The ESDN study on the current state of parliamentary involvement in SDG implementation shows that laws that explicitly refer to sustainable development or the SDGs are relatively rare. Many respondents indicated that there were no laws that explicitly referred to the 2030 Agenda or specific SDGs. However, due to the all-encompassing nature of sustainable development, it was pointed out several times that the laws often do address issues that are raised in the 2030 Agenda, even though there was no specific reference made to the Agenda or individual SDGs. Regarding Impact Assessments, most respondents stated that their parliament's impact assessments usually included sustainable development issues in a more general way. Several impact assessments place a focus on environmental issues, gender issues, or social and societal issues, in general without explicitly referring to sustainable

development.

**Budget:** An important aspect of sustainable development and the SDGs is their interdisciplinary nature. Therefore, parliament needs to find ways to address the interlinkages between the SDGs (policy coherence for sustainable development), how to capitalize on their potential synergies and to balance trade-offs. Since the budgetary process usually brings together many different committees across political issues, it could, therefore, function as a role model for overcoming political silos (i.e. integration of different political sectors) in the implementation of sustainable development. Parliaments' control over the budgetary process varies. In many countries, the debate about the budget is rather nominal and the proposal by the government cannot be modified. However, most parliaments review and discuss the government's budget in plenary and some have a dedicated committee for the budget. When discussing the budget, parliamentarians can question the government on what the budget intends to deliver regarding the SDGs. As the budgetary process usually receives a lot of attention, also by the media, giving the SDGs a prominent role will raise awareness as to their importance not only within parliament but also with the public. The ESDN survey shows that in almost all corresponding countries, the SDGs have so far not played a crucial role when the parliament has debated the budget. The SDGs may have been mentioned, but unfortunately, they were not a major topic during the debate.

**Oversight and Monitoring:** One of the most important roles of parliaments is to monitor their government's activities. Therefore, holding the government accountable for its progress on the SDGs is arguably one of the most effective ways for parliament to be involved in the implementation of the SDGs. The most obvious way of doing this is to query the government during 'question time' and by posing inquiries to the government and standing committees. The ESDN report indicated that parliamentarians may use

these traditional tools to hold the government to account and that this had happened with regards to the SDGs. Another way to support its monitoring efforts, the parliament can request data regarding the SDGs and sustainable development from national statistics offices or supreme audit institutions. However, the ESDN report stated that most national statistics offices do not submit their reports on the SDGs to the parliament and parliaments do not make use of it formally if such a report exists. Many supreme audit institutions also examine SDG implementation and some of them also officially submit this report to the parliament. A third way of monitoring the government is when the government reports on its activities itself. However, many governments do not submit a progress report on the SDGs to the parliament. Another major way for parliaments to monitor their government's progress is to participate in the drafting and writing of Voluntary National Review (VNRs) to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)[1]. Parliaments can make sure that the government collects all the necessary data and addresses the relevant gaps. In addition, the VNRs present an opportunity for parliamentarians and those in the parliamentary committee that is responsible for SDG implementation to assess and adjust their own work and focus. This report usually covers a longer period of time, as governments are recommended to submit them every two to three years, but at least twice before 2030. However, the ESDN report shows that most governments do not involve their parliaments in the preparation of the VNR.

**Representation:** Since parliamentarians are supposed to advocate for their constituents and ensure that their perspectives, values and interests are represented in the policy process, representing the citizens of its country is one of the key functions of a national parliament. In the context of the SDGs, this means that it is one of the functional categories of parliaments to ensure that their constituents' voices are heard when it comes to setting priorities in designing policies for implementation and

deciding on trade-offs between different goals. However, the ESDN report shows that while all parliaments have mechanisms for civil society engagement, there are only a few initiatives that relate directly to the SDGs. Nevertheless, several countries have multi-stakeholder councils that include not only members of parliament but also representatives of civil society, such as business associations, faith communities, academia, and NGOs.

### Lack of Awareness and Silo-Thinking

The study on the current state of parliamentary involvement in SDG implementation shows there is a variety of mechanisms that parliamentarians make use of to foster the implementation of the SDGs in their country. In addition, the ways in which these mechanisms are applied and used are very different. Due to the fact that the governance structures vary in each country, not all parliaments are able to make use of the same tools in the same way. In none of the responding countries did parliamentarians make extensive use of all or even most of the discussed mechanisms. The ESDN report shows that the most activities happen in the category of legislation (in 22 out of 30 parliaments). 20 countries report monitoring activities and 12 countries report activities in the area of budget. Only seven countries report SDG related activities in the field of representation.

In addition, none of the responding parliaments are active in all of the four categories of **legislation, budget, monitoring** and **representation**. However, due to the all-encompassing nature of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development, in general, it is very likely that these mechanisms are used to promote the aims of the SDGs in spirit, but without an explicit reference to the SDGs. Indeed, many of the responses to questions referred to laws or initiatives that are related to sustainable development, often environmental or climate-related issues, but also gender or human rights issues.

It is, however, noticeable that sustainable development is often still attributed to environmental issues. Parliamentarians from several countries stated a **lack of awareness** for the SDGs among their colleagues. Either, other MPs did not know about the SDGs, or they believed the SDGs were merely an environmental or international development issue. This may reflect the fact that in many countries, sustainable development is assigned to environmental committees and the ministry of environment. An awareness of the holistic approach of sustainable development and the all-encompassing nature of the SDGs and their connection to the work of parliamentarians in other sectors e.g. social issues, health, employment is missing.

Due to parliaments' structure, institutional **Silo-thinking** is a second challenge that should be mentioned with regards to sustainable development and parliamentary involvement in SDG implementation of the 2030 Agenda. There are institutional silos,

meaning there is little cooperation or transparent exchange between parliaments, governments, civil society and other actors. It is important that governments and parliaments cooperate and that civil society is invited to the table when discussing the implementation of the SDGs. The IPU handbook suggests that parliaments self-assess their capacity for implementation every few years, this also includes the potential for cooperation and synergies with other actors.

Overall, it appears that parliaments are often very involved in their country's 2030 Agenda implementation process and utilize many different tools to ensure the achievement of the SDGs. As the governance structure and the roles attributed to parliaments are different in each country, the scope of parliamentary action differs, too. [Click here](#) to read the full report (English) and to get further details and more information about which different mechanisms were used in each parliament.





## COUNTRY PROFILE

## SPAIN, EU &amp; LAC REGION

“ The importance of Spanish investment in the LAC region is a new addition to the traditional values of history, culture, language and religion, which have governed relations over the past two centuries. ”

*By Maria Kretschmer, Fraunhofer IPK*

Latin America is important for Spain for many reasons, regardless of whether or not it is the top foreign policy priority. In this regard, Spain's acceptance of its double (European and Ibero-American) identity has enabled it in recent years to increase its profile and influence, not only in Europe and Latin America, but also in other parts of the world. The importance of Spanish investment in the LAC region is a new addition to the traditional values of history, culture, language and religion, which have governed relations over the past two centuries. In very few years Spain has become the second largest investor in the region and in some countries, such as Argentina, it is the biggest, making Spain the main non-American player in Latin America. Spanish foreign direct investment is concentrated in only a few countries (mainly Brazil, Mexico, Chile and Argentina, but also Peru, Colombia and Venezuela), but the global bias of Spain's Latin American policy has led to equal treatment for all the countries in the region. Spain's political will to be present in Latin America is compatible with the EU's common foreign policy, which in certain circumstances sets limits on Spain's actions. However, Spain could take the initiative to lead European policy as a whole in the LAC region ([Malamud, Carlos \(2006\) SPAIN'S POLICY AND STRATEGIES TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA](#)).

With a GDP of USD 1.3 trillion and a population of 47 million people, Spain is the fourth-largest economy in the Eurozone ([International Trade Administration](#)). A peaceful transition to democracy following the death of dictator Francisco FRANCO in 1975, and rapid economic modernization (Spain joined the EU in 1986) gave Spain a dynamic and rapidly growing economy, and made it a global champion of freedom and human rights. After Spain has experienced a severe economic recession that began in mid-2008, Spain marked the fourth full year of positive economic growth in 2017, with economic activity surpassing its pre-crisis peak, largely because of increased private consumption. ([The World Factbook](#)). Spain has still a high structural unemployment rate – especially among youth – with the latest official figures for the second quarter of 2021 standing at 15.26 percent ([International Trade Administration](#)).

The most important sectors of Spain's economy in 2020 are public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities (20.5%), wholesale and retail trade, transport, accommodation and food services (19.7%) and industry (16.1%). Intra-EU trade accounts for 61% of Spain's exports (France 16%, Germany 11% and Italy 8%), while outside

the EU 8% go to the United Kingdom and 5% to the United States. In terms of imports, 57% come from EU countries (Germany 14%, France 11% and Italy 7%), while outside the EU 9% come from China and 4% from the United States ([European Union: Country Profile Spain](#)).

According to the [International Trade Administration](#), Spain has traditionally represented a significant export market, although the global pandemic reduced two-way trade in goods and services. Due to the macroeconomic reforms in the financial sector and labor laws, costs have dropped, and productivity has increased in comparison to other major markets in the region. These reforms have increased Spain's competitiveness, making it a good market for entry not only into the European region but also for Latin America and Africa.

Of particular interest to companies already doing business with Latin America, Spain places a high priority on the commercial and economic concerns of Latin American countries due to investment, language, immigration, and cultural ties. This close relationship with Latin America can provide strategic synergies like no other European country for exporters engaged in both Spain and Latin America ([International Trade Administration](#)).

### Economic Forecast

Although the Spanish economy declined 11 percent in 2020, (after a growth of 2 percent in 2019), indications are for the Spanish economy to recover in a better-than-expected manner in 2021. The IMF forecasts that Spain's recovery rate in 2021 is estimated to grow 6.2 percent, and then taper off to a recovery of 5.8 percent in 2022 ([International Trade Administration](#)).

According to [The Economist](#), Spain's dependence on tourism, a predominance of small businesses with small margins and an overreliance on temporary contracts will still delay the post-covid economic recovery. Real GDP will not return to pre-crisis levels before mid-2022. The weak parliamentary basis of the coalition government – comprising the centre-left Spanish Socialist Workers' Party and the far-

left Unidas Podemos – carries political risks, but the government is expected to remain in place until the end of its term in 2023.

### Spain's Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Landscape

The Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, assumes the responsibility for fostering research and innovation, and the management of international relations in this area and the Spanish representation in programs and international organizations, and the EU. Nevertheless, other Ministries also participate in the creation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of R&D&I policy ([EURAXESS SPAIN](#)).

The Act 14/2011 of 1st June on science, technology and innovation (hereinafter, STI Act, from its initials in Spanish) defines the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System as a "system of systems" that integrates and coordinates general State policies with those of the Autonomous Regions and articulates the actions in the public and private (company) spheres via the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Council. The objective of the STI Act is to contribute to sustainable economic development and social welfare by generating, spreading and transferring knowledge and innovation ([EURAXESS SPAIN](#)).

Spanish R&D&I policy is based around ([EURAXESS SPAIN](#)):

1. *Spanish Strategy on Science, Technology, and Innovation (Estrategia Española de Ciencia y Tecnología y de Innovación (EECTI) 2021-2027)* gives an overview of the framework of the Spanish System for Science, Technology and Innovation; the basic shared principles which must be considered when defining public R&D&I policies; certain general objectives aligned with the aims of the strategy; lines of priority of a transversal nature, and coordination mechanisms which refer to the principles of coordinated management in the Public administration measures on R&D&I.

2. *Spanish National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation (currently Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica y Técnica y de Innovación (PEICTI) 2021-2023)* develops the national programmes and subprogrammes defined at the service of the objectives and principles of the Spanish Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation
3. *The Annual Action Programme* covers the list of annual actions and calls developed by the national programmes and establishes a calendar of proposed public calls, in which the characteristics of the aid, recipients, deadlines for presentation and the ruling of proposals are indicated together with the relevant management bodies.

As an Member State of the European Union, Spain has been/is involved in 18.811 projects under H2020 ([Horizon 2020 Dashboards](#), state of February 2022). Barcelona is listed 7th and the capital Madrid is listed 9th on the Europe Continental Cities Innovation Index ([Innovation Cities](#)).

### National Science Technology and Innovation priorities

The EECTI 2021-2027, currently in force, is structured in two state plans, the 2021-2023 State Plan, which is currently being implemented, and the 2024-2027 State Plan. The plans include state aid for R&D&I carried out by the National Government. A considerable part of this aid is implemented through competitive calls for proposals ([Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación](#)).

The PEICTI 2021-2023 has been drawn up with the contributions and priorities of public research centres, universities, technology centres, business associations, technology platforms and experts from the scientific, technical and business community. The PEICTI 2021-2023 is made up of four state programmes that correspond to the general objectives established in the EECTI 2021-2027. The programmes are ([Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación](#)):

- ❖ State programme to tackle the priorities of our **environment**.
- ❖ State programme to promote **scientific and technical research** and its transfer.
- ❖ State programme for **developing, attracting and retaining talent**
- ❖ State programme to **catalyse innovation and business leadership**

### Previous contribution in Horizon 2020

In total 18.811 Spanish organisations were involved in Horizon 2020 projects with a total of 6,34B Euro funding received by the project's participants. Structured by thematic priority, projects were conducted mainly within the frame of ([Horizon 2020 Dashboards](#), state of February 2022):

- ❖ Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (2,9k participations)
- ❖ Information and Communication on Technologies (2,35k participations)
- ❖ Secure, clean and efficient energy (1,76k participations)
- ❖ Smart, green and integrated transport (1,71k participations)
- ❖ Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research (1,44k participations)
- ❖ Health, demographic change and wellbeing (1,34k participations)
- ❖ Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials (1,14k participations)
- ❖ Innovation in SMEs (801 participations)
- ❖ Advanced manufacturing and processing (724 participations)
- ❖ Future and Emerging Technologies (615 participations)
- ❖ Secure societies -Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens (611 participations)
- ❖ European Research Council (606 participation)
- ❖ Research Infrastructure (557 participations)
- ❖ Advanced materials (465 participations)
- ❖ Space (406 participations)
- ❖ Europe in a changing world-inclusive, innovative and reflective societies (327

- participations)
- ❖ Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials and Production (228 participations)
  - ❖ Euratom (180 participations)
  - ❖ Biotechnology (157 participations)
  - ❖ Cross-theme (141 participations)
  - ❖ Integrate society in science and innovation (63 participations)
  - ❖ Science with and for Society – Cross-theme (49 participation)
  - ❖ Twinning of research institutions (45 participations)
  - ❖ Develop the governance for the advancement of responsible research and innovation (44 participations)
  - ❖ Make scientific and technological careers attractive for young people (44 participations)
  - ❖ Promote gender equality in research and innovation (43 participations)
  - ❖ Others (54 participations)

The three major organisations in terms of received funding were the AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS (373,4M Euro), FUNDACION TECNALIA RESEARCH & INNOVATION (171,58M Euro) and BARCELONA SUPERCOMPUTING CENTER – CENTRO NACIONAL DE SUPERCOMPUTACION (108,77M Euro). The main collaboration links with LAC Countries of

the Collaborative Country Group ‘Other Countries which get Automatic Funding’ are Argentina with 421 collaborations, Chile with 359 collaborations and Colombia with 217 collaborations ([Horizon 2020 Dashboards](#), state of February 2022).

Regarding Spain’s SME Performance regarding Horizon 2020, 31.391 SME applied for H2020 project from which 4.484 SMEs were actually involved with a total net EU contribution of 1,31B Euro funding received ([Horizon 2020 Dashboards](#), state of February 2022).

### Funding opportunities in Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the biggest EU research and innovation programme ever with €95.5 billion of funding available over 7 years (2021 to 2027). Horizon Europe is open to the world. This means that participants from all over the world can participate in most calls. In many cases, the EU will fund at least partly the participation of the international partners. As a member state of the EU, participants from Spain are automatically eligible for EU funding, unless specific limitations or conditions are laid down in the work programme and/or call/topic text. Most LAC countries are also eligible for EU funding as per the Horizon Europe participation rules. The list of eligible countries can be consulted in the Funding and Tenders Portal.

#### Top Collaborations

Collaboration links in the projects where Spain is involved

