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**European Union,  
Latin America  
and the Caribbean**

# **Digital Alliance**

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# Addressing the digital divide in the Caribbean

- ▶ Closing the Caribbean's digital divide could increase the region's GDP by 6% to 12% in the medium term.
- ▶ Potential **payoffs** from investing in digital infrastructure are considerable: **range from 2 to 50x**
  - ▶ the deployment of **5G in the EU by 2025** is estimated to yield **EUR 1 trillion in new GDP**,
  - ▶ **EUR 2 trillion in new sales**,
  - ▶ and the potential to create / transform **20m new jobs**. Similar figures in the US.
- ▶ A **regional approach is fundamental** to achieve these goals and harness the potential of the digital economy and society, and not just for the economies of scale (i.e: satellite connectivity, data centres, high performance computing)



## The EU offer to the region: The Digital Alliance



An informal coordination framework- endorsed by the Heads of State that promotes the joint interest of both regions working together on digitalisation.



A human-centric approach, where Governments regulate and businesses innovate, but data security and citizen protection are at the centre.



Working together in the digital transition, with the leading standard setting region in data protection and data governance, regulation of artificial intelligence, deployment of electronic ID systems, and development of cybersecurity capabilities.



A package that combines “soft” and “hard” elements of policy coordination, technical assistance, business to business support and investments in connectivity for the Greater Caribbean.



Support to develop inter-operable frameworks, common standards, cyber-security protocols, etc...

# The Alliance in practice

## Walking the talk...



### High-Level Policy Dialogues

EU-LAC High-level Policy Dialogue on **Digital Policy and Regulations** bring together LAC and EU policy makers at high-level and **demand-driven** regional policy dialogues, to **build consensus and partnerships** on digital policy and regulatory matters.

- ▶ *Cybersecurity, Dominican Republic, February 2024*
- ▶ *Artificial Intelligence, Uruguay, March 2024*
- ▶ *eGovernance, Costa Rica, May 2024*
- ▶ *Data Governance, Uruguay, October 2024*
- ▶ *Connectivity and Inclusion, Chile, November 2024*
- ▶ *Artificial Intelligence, Chile, November 2024*



### BELLA Cable

- ▶ 35.000 km of **submarine fibre-optic cable** connecting LAC and the EU.
- ▶ Connecting **Higher Education and Research Networks**, bringing unprecedented opportunities for scientific, cultural and business exchanges.
- ▶ Facilitating the sharing of **high-performance computing and Earth observation data** between Europe and LAC.
- ▶ Public-private partnership of stakeholders, with the EU as the largest investor.



### EU-LAC Digital Accelerator

- ▶ Offers **business accelerator services** to **joint ventures** established between EU and LAC companies.
- ▶ Specific **carve-out for the Caribbean**, targeting **100 firms** with EUR 40k each in individual support.
- ▶ The objective is to **connect digital projects** with relevant public and private investors to financially enable them.
- ▶ It offers a key **match-making service** between Caribbean start-ups and EU corporate firms.



### Regional COPERNICUS Centres

- ▶ 2 centres **established and operational** in Panama and Chile.
- ▶ **Transferring** skills, expertise and competitive **EU space-related digital services** to LAC countries.
- ▶ Satellite Earth Observation can make a difference addressing challenges like **climate change, border controls, and disaster risk management**.
- ▶ **Specific user cases in development** to offer both public and private sector.

# The Alliance in practice

## Walking the talk...

*But also:*



### REGIONAL CYBER-COMPETENCE CENTRE (LAC4)

Established in the Dominican Republic to provide expertise in cybersecurity and cybercrime to support LAC's operational and transformation efforts.



### DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME

Developed for the OECS and Trinidad and Tobago is developing legislation, enabling innovative frameworks and financing digital solutions.



### DATA CENTER & DIGITAL ID INTER-OPERABILITY PLATFORM

Being funded in Trinidad and Tobago.



### INCREASING ISLAND-WIDE BROADBAND ACCESS

in Jamaica, and providing inclusive access to digital technologies in education and MSMEs



# Who is team Europe?

## Partners in the Digital Alliance

- ▶ **EU institutions:** EC, EU Agencies, European Investment Bank, EDFIs...
- ▶ **27 Member States:** bilateral partnerships and programmes
- ▶ **Leading implementing agencies and institutions,** including:



# The Alliance in practice

## What's up next?

### Adding members to a growing alliance:

- **Latin America**
  - Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay
- **Caribbean**
  - The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
- **EU**
  - all 27 Member States

### Study visit for Ministers of Digital Affairs to the EU

- Planned for 1Q 2025
- 1 week, 3-4 EU Member States,
- Policy and regulatory bodies
- 5G telcos and operators
- Cybersecurity centers
- Start-up and innovation centres
- Investors, etc...

### Caribbean initiatives in motion

- Study with CTU, on the deployment of 5G in the Caribbean
- Cybersecurity strategy support in the OECS
- Broadband in Jamaica
- Tallin cyber school for cybersecurity capacity building and cyber resilience

### Extension of high-level policy dialogues

- Additional funds for leveraging investments and blending operations
- Additional funds for policy cooperation on e-governance, data, connectivity and cybersecurity in the Caribbean
- Development of BELLA connectivity in the Caribbean including OCTs



# In conclusion...

## Action plan

- Ministerial study trip to the EU: confirmation needed
- BELLA connectivity in the Caribbean: kick-off with feasibility study. Promising opportunity, requiring strategic co-investment
- Review and updating of the CARICOM Impacs cybersecurity strategy (as follow-up of Cartagena conclusions)

- 2025 High-Level Digital Alliance dialogue hosted in the Caribbean
- Definition of digital Global Gateway Investment opportunities
- Progress on strategic policy cooperation with interested countries

- EU-CELAC Summit deliverables
- **Regional approach and cooperation is fundamental** to achieve these goals and harness the potential of the digital economy and society (not just for economies of scale, i.e: satellite connectivity, data centres, etc...)



# EU-CELAC Summit 2025

## The road to Colombia

- ▶ The **4<sup>th</sup> EU-CELAC Summit** will take place in Colombia in 4Q 2025.
- ▶ It will also take stock of all the progress under the **Global Gateway Investment Agenda**, including under the EU-LAC Digital Alliance and the bi-regional roadmap 2023-2025.

