

# EU-LAC Innovation Cooperation Conference on 25-26 September in Brussels, Belgium

## Bringing stakeholders together to shape future innovation policy for sustainable development

The European Commission is hosting an **EU-LAC<sup>1</sup> Innovation Cooperation Conference** in the context of its upcoming [European Research and Innovation Days](#) (24-26 September 2019).

### Get involved

The EU-LAC Innovation Cooperation Conference will bring together European and Latin American policy makers, investors and start-up support networks, to debate and shape the future of innovation cooperation between both regions. A specific focus will be set on driving innovation for sustainable development.

### Objectives of the Conference

- **Exchange knowledge and ideas** on how to create the right framework conditions for innovation to address pressing economic, environmental and social challenges.
- **Strengthen EU-LAC relations** with concrete measures supporting the exchange of knowledge, technologies and good practices between representatives from both regions.

### Towards a common research and innovation area between the EU and LAC

The EU and LAC have developed a solid relationship aimed at building a common research area, particularly through the work undertaken by EU-LAC Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation. This has facilitated researcher mobility across both regions, and has driven bi-regional research cooperation to address societal challenges. The conference will focus the conversation on how existing bi-regional scientific ties can be leveraged to drive the process of innovation, particularly within the private sector, on both sides of the Atlantic. To this end, the conference will bring together agents responsible for supporting innovation, from a policy, knowledge or financial perspective, to discuss the determinants of success in collectively supporting innovators and entrepreneurs.

### Learning from each other

The EU and LAC regions **face common challenges and can learn from each other's strengths when it comes to supporting innovation**. The conference will provide a platform to discuss in an open and constructive manner the state of play of innovation cooperation, successful policy practices, and priorities for the EU-LAC innovation for sustainability cooperation agenda. This will include discussions on how to address existing barriers to innovation cooperation such as inadequate flows of risk finance, barriers to mobility for entrepreneurs, difficulty to carry out technology transfer, lack of more standardised Intellectual Property regulations, and market and policy fragmentation.

Actions discussed at the conference could take a variety of forms, from measures to facilitate mobility of entrepreneurs between the two regions and developing innovation infrastructure to joint innovation support projects funded by innovation support agencies and investors and to linking innovation cooperation to trade and investment policy coordination.

### Target groups of the conference

The European Commission is inviting a selected group of **European and Latin American and Caribbean innovation support practitioners** to participate in the conference including: national or regional-level ministries focussing on innovation, national innovation agencies or councils, national entrepreneurship associations or networks and/or trade federations, incubator/accelerator networks, investors and business angel networks. Representatives from existing cooperation infrastructures will also be invited to share their experience in fostering EU-LAC innovation cooperation.

---

<sup>1</sup> EU: European Union; LAC: Latin America and Caribbean