



III EU-LAC Youth Days Concept Note Prague, 15-16 November 2022

Background

This activity is part of the [European Year of Youth 2022](#), which highlights the importance of European youth in building a more prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive future. Therefore, it aligned with the “[Youth Council of Latin America and the Caribbean](#)” of CELAC¹ and, in turn, it coincides with the new [Youth Action Plan \(YAP\) in EU external action \(2022-2027\)](#) launched in October 2022. The YAP seeks to build a strategic partnership with young people and create spaces and opportunities for them to participate in policy formulation and decision-making.

Within this framework, the European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean Foundation (EU-LAC Foundation), financed by the European Union and in association with Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic) organises the **III EU-LAC Youth Days**² in Prague. The latter is a relevant location considering the framework of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second semester of 2022.

The third edition of the EU-LAC Youth Days retakes a process of dialogue between young people from both sides of the Atlantic to feed the reflexion on the future of the bi-regional relations, which will be capitalised ahead of a possible bi-regional Summit in the second half of 2023. Therefore, young people’s proposal and ideas would eventually contribute to the future of the bi-regional agenda.

The EU-LAC Foundation is an international organisation established in Hamburg (Germany) in 2011, whose membership includes the European Union (EU) and its Member States, as well as Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries. Its mission is to strengthen the visibility of the strategic association between both regions and to generate valuable inputs for the decision-making and the intergovernmental process in relevant topics.

¹ Both regions are working simultaneously on building youth action plans and engaging young people as decisive actors of change. The [European Union's Youth Action Plan in external action \(2022-2027\)](#), which sets out a comprehensive policy framework on youth acknowledging young people as agents of change and essential partners in the implementation of the [2030 Agenda](#). It aims to build a strategic partnership with young people, and create spaces and opportunities for young people to take part of the decision and policymaking process. During the Argentinian Pro Tempore Presidency, CELAC has launched the [Youth Council of LAC](#) whose main objective is to generate a space for training and exchange of ideas amongst young people in Latin America and the Caribbean that contributes to their empowerment as agents of development in their countries and also contributes to the formulation of a comprehensive regional proposal with a youth perspective.

² The first edition of the Youth EU-LAC Days was held in Quito (Ecuador, 2015). It addressed the theme of employability and education, and the Quito Declaration was presented at the last EU-CELAC Summit. The second edition was held in Zaragoza (Spain, 2018). It focused on the management of youth volunteering in both regions.





Objective

The overall objective of the III EU-LAC Youth Days is to provide a platform for constructive and meaningful dialogues between the youth of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union to address common challenges, with the aim to provide inputs to the intergovernmental process and to contribute to feed the reflection on bi-regional policies and plans. In addition, the outcome of the III EU-LAC Youth Days should include ideas on how to increase the participation of young people in general but in particular, in relation to the bi-regional dialogue and the political agenda.

Venue, Date and Format

The event will take place on 15-16 November 2022 at Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic), with a web-streaming channel to facilitate a wider participation from both regions.

Participants

Representatives from youth networks from the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean as well as young leaders and activists involved with the most pressing challenges of both regions. Challenges such as participation, education, employment, fight against inequalities, social cohesion, green and digital transitions will be at the centre of the discussion.

Some participants will be invited as panellists in the plenary sessions open to the public. Other participants, physically present at the event, will actively take part to produce and systematise recommendations divided into working groups.

The EU-LAC Foundation will ensure an inclusive, diverse, and balanced participation in terms of gender, diversity of the group (taking into account transversality regarding minority groups, indigenous and afro-descendent populations among others), regions, countries, and sectors wise. It is also expected to count with the participation of National Youth Councils, as well as important national, regional, and local youth actors and networks.

In order to facilitate a wider participation, an online consultation will allow youth representatives and activist from both regions to contribute and react to the different topics.

Languages

The languages of the event will be Spanish and English. Interpretation to both languages will be available on the plenary sessions, including the panels.

