

Initiative

‘Open Science: Innovations, Challenges and Projections for the Future based on an Inter-regional Dialogue’

– Concept and Programme –

Organisation: EU-LAC Foundation, OBREAL Global

Dates and formats: Virtual Dialogues, 6 and 7 April 2022
Panel at WHEC 2022; hybrid event in Barcelona, 19 May 2022

Organisation

The **EU-LAC Foundation** is an international intergovernmental institution established in 2010 by the States of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the European Union (EU), as well as the EU through its institutions. Its mandate is to work closely with its 61 members to promote bi-regional partnership and dialogue, including through the participation of civil society, in order to generate relevant inputs for intergovernmental processes. An essential part of this mission is to build bridges to increase mutual knowledge and promote dialogue and collaboration on issues that are high on the agenda of the strategic partnership between the regions, such as higher education, science, technology and innovation, sustainable social and economic development, climate change, culture, multilateralism and gender relations.

OBREAL Global was born in 2004 as an association to implement cooperation projects in the field of higher education and research between the European Union and Latin America; it was created by 23 academic institutions and research centres from Europe and Latin America, and their own networks. As of 2017, it was transformed into an association with a global scope, redefining its thematic areas and expanding its geographical scope and membership from Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean to Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. OBREAL Global's mission is to promote dialogue and synergies between the governmental, academic and social sectors, and to create inter-regional South-South-North bridges in the fields of higher education and research.

In this initiative, the EU-LAC Foundation and OBREAL Global count with the support of several institutions relevant to bi-regional dialogue, including the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Commission.

Initiative co-financed by:



Federal Foreign Office

Initiative supported by:



Ministerio de Educación
Argentina



Ministerio de Ciencia,
Tecnología e Innovación
Argentina

Introduction: Open Science and inter-regional dialogue

Open Science is a key tool for academic cooperation, information sharing and inclusive policy-making in science and research. **The UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, approved on November 23, 2021, defines it as “an inclusive construct that combines various movements and practices aiming to make multilingual scientific knowledge openly available, accessible and reusable for everyone, to increase scientific collaborations and sharing of information for the benefits of science and society, and to open the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community”**¹. In this way, open science is highlighted in the current context by its importance in today’s world where challenges are global, and the key to solving these challenges often comes from the scientific communities which require access to data and literature in an open, fair, and shared way. Moreover, the Recommendation highlights that the need to promote and implement Open Science practices becomes ever more present today with the widening inequalities resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis.

There are different and incipient initiatives of exchange and cooperation in Open Science between institutions and networks in the EU and LAC and other regions of the world.² It is in this context of dialogue and collective construction in which this initiative of the EU-LAC Foundation and OBREAL Global is inserted. With this initiative, its promoters aim to facilitate a space that multiplies exchanges, favours training and promotes knowledge of the tools for the practice of Open Science. Ultimately, the aim is to facilitate synergies that allow the involvement of institutions and experts in the field from LAC, the EU and other regions.

Specific context

Open science has risen to the top of the international scientific agenda because of its relevance for research and equal access to knowledge and scientific production. In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Directors-General of UNESCO, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a call for open, inclusive and collaborative science, in direct linkage with Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.³ As a result, UNESCO's Member States commissioned the organisation to lead the process of drafting a Recommendation on Open Science. UNESCO conducted a global survey and a series of regional consultations. Recently, on November 23, 2021, the Recommendation was approved at the UNESCO General Assembly by government representatives, and Member States are expected to apply the provisions of the Recommendation to give effect, in their respective territories, to the principles and actions proposed in the document.

¹ See: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949.locale=en>

² An example of this is the existing forums for dialogue and exchange between networks such as La Referencia, OpenAIRE and COAR. See: <https://www.openaire.eu/la-referencia-workshop-costa-rica?highlight=WyJsYSIsInJlZmVyZW5jaWEiLCJsYSByZWZlcmVuY2IhIlo=>

³ Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Article 27: (1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits (2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

The European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have an important track record in Open Science. Both regions were actively involved in the elaboration of the UNESCO Open Science Recommendation.⁴ In addition, both regions have developed several initiatives related to Open Science, and many of these initiatives go beyond regional borders and allow interaction between the two regions and with other regions of the world.

Latin America has been characterised by a strong tradition of promoting open access publishing, fostering digital repositories and promoting open data public policies. During the 2018 Open Science Forum Latin America and the Caribbean (CILAC Forum), participants drafted the Panama Declaration on Open Science, which highlights the importance of Open Science in building more just and sustainable societies and offers recommendations on the implementation of instruments and policies promoting Open Science.⁵ In addition, in 2020, the UNESCO office in Montevideo together with the CILAC Forum organised a Regional Consultation in preparation for the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

Specifically, since the end of the 1990s, a series of initiatives have been developed in Latin America aimed at making scientific and technological knowledge accessible to all. As outstanding examples, we can mention the SciELO⁶ platform based in Brazil, the Redalyc Scientific Information System⁷ based in Mexico, and the LA Referencia⁸ repository network. These platforms, repositories and networks have grown exponentially, which, on the one hand, reflects the need of Latin American researchers and institutions to share information and access knowledge that is often transmitted in commercial spaces (publishing houses, data banks, media) and thus to avoid that the availability of financial resources becomes a necessary condition for academic production and publication. On the other hand, it reflects the political will of some states in the region⁹ to promote a form of knowledge production and management oriented towards the dissemination and public impact of science. In this sense, aimed at promoting tools that facilitate the exercise of Open Science. In this sense, several countries in the region have developed public policies aimed at promoting instruments that facilitate the exercise of Open Science.¹⁰

The EU has also defined and implements its own open science policy. The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation has included open science as part of its "2020-2024 Strategy" and has therefore created eight action lines that are key to fulfilling its policy in this subject matter. These action lines are related, for example, to open data/FAIR (findability, accessibility, interoperability and reuse of data), the European Open Science Cloud (a platform aimed at storing, sharing, processing and reusing digital research objects), next-generation metrics,

⁴ See: <https://council.science/current/news/unesco-science-commission-adopts-open-science-recommendation/>

⁵ See: <http://forocilac.org/declaracion-de-panama-sobre-ciencia-abierta/>

⁶ See: <https://scielo.org/en/>

⁷ See: <https://www.redalyc.org/>

⁸ See: <https://www.lareferencia.info/en/>

⁹ Mexico, Brazil, Peru and Argentina developed public policies in this regard. It is worth mentioning that the Republic of Argentina and the Republic of Peru are among the few countries in the world that have developed a specific legislation for the management of data systems and repositories. Peru has had specific legislation since 2013, and Argentina since 2014. See:

<https://portal.concytec.gob.pe/images/stories/images2013/portal/areas-institucion/dsic/ley-30035.pdf> and https://repositoriosdigitales.mincyt.gob.ar/files/Boletin_Oficial_Resolucion_753.pdf

¹⁰ See: <https://blogs.iadb.org/conocimiento-abierto/es/el-estatus-ciencia-abierta-americalatina/>

and citizen science. In addition, all EU research and innovation funding programs - such as, for instance, Horizon Europe - are required to follow an Open Science framework, allowing a very large flow of research to be carried out under EU open science policies, making the resulting publications publicly available.¹¹

Europe's main universities have taken a position on Open Science. Analyses were elaborated on the fundamental pillars of Open Science as well as recommendations and roadmaps for universities to facilitate the transition to Open Science.¹² Based on the assumption that immediate free access to new scientific discoveries is of great importance for the progress of science and for society, and that the faster and more widely research results are received and discussed, the faster other scientists can build on them, several EU Member States and Research Councils have adopted ambitious policies and plans in this area, facilitating the unhindered dissemination of the results, methods and products of scientific research.¹³

At the level of bi-regional EU-CELAC cooperation, Open Science has also been given a particular role in recent times. The cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovation is structured on the basis of the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation (JIRI), whose last dialogue was the Eighth Senior Officials Meeting on Science and Technology in 2020. This meeting approved the "Strategic Roadmap 2021-2023 for the implementation of the Brussels Declaration and the CELAC-EU Action Plan on Science, Technology and Innovation", section 12 of which focuses on open science.¹⁴

UNESCO World Higher Education Conference 2022

The Recommendation on Open Science recently adopted by UNESCO Member States will play an important role in the framework of the Third World Higher Education Conference (WHEC2022) which will be held in Barcelona on May 18-20, 2022 in collaboration with the Spanish Government, the Generalitat de Catalunya, the City Council and the Deputation of Barcelona, and with GUNi/ACUP (Global University Network for Innovation / Catalan Association of Public Universities) as the local responsible for the organisation. This Conference aims to bring together all relevant actors in order to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of Higher Education to respond to the challenges faced by humanity and the planet, paying special attention to the global disruption created by the Covid-19 pandemic. It will focus on both higher education systems (standards, policies, structures, stakeholders) and institutions (universities, specialised entities, networks) and

¹¹ See: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/open-science_en

¹² See, for instance: <https://eua.eu/issues/21:open-science.html> or <https://www.leru.org/publications/open-science-and-its-role-in-universities-a-roadmap-for-cultural-change>

¹³ See, for instance: <https://www.openscience.nl/en/national-platform-open-science/national-plan-open-science>; https://www.bmbf.de/bmbf/de/forschung/digitale-wirtschaft-und-gesellschaft/open-access/open-access_node; https://www.wissenschaftsrat.de/download/2022/9477-22.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=12; <https://www.ouvrirlascience.fr/second-national-plan-for-open-science/>

¹⁴ See:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research_and_innovation/strategy_on_research_and_innovation/documents/eu-celac_strategic-roadmap-2021-2023.pdf

will offer new insights and the opportunity to create new partnerships of the global higher education community in support for the 2030 Agenda.¹⁵

UNESCO extended an invitation to the EU-LAC Foundation to organise a panel on open science at this Conference, so the present initiative will have a first culmination with the organisation of a multi-regional panel on the subject.

Objectives of the initiative

Against this background, the EU-LAC Foundation and OBREAL Global, together with partners from different regions, are organizing the Initiative "Open Science: Innovations, Challenges and Projections for the Future based on an Inter-regional Dialogue", which will have the following objectives:

- To provide spaces for dialogue, synergies, and training among institutions, professionals and experts in the field of Open Science from LAC, the EU and other regions, in order to increase connections, collaborations and synergies among these actors;
- Collect proposals from institutions and experts participating in a series of two virtual dialogues regarding tools, technical solutions, and public policies relevant to the different regional and national contexts to help make the UNESCO Recommendation on the exercise and promotion of Open Science;
- Develop relevant inputs for the Third UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC 2022) based on the results of the reflections generated during two previously organised Virtual Dialogues;
- Enhance EU-CELAC bi-regional dialogue and cooperation on in the practice of Open Science.

Invited Institutions and Participants

The EU-LAC Foundation and OBREAL Global and their partners from different regions invite a group of leading institutions, professionals, and experts from LAC, the EU, Africa and Asia to (i) two initial online dialogues that will serve to organise a discussion about tools, technical solutions, and public policies in the realm of Open Science. Those discussions will be reflected in (ii) a document that will serve as an input for the WHEC2022 discussions, and on the basis of which (iii) an inter-regional Panel promoted by the EU-LAC Foundation and OBREAL Global will be organised as part of the official programme of the UNESCO conference.

¹⁵ See: <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-world-higher-education-conference-2022>

Roadmap of the initiative

1) Virtual Dialogue 1: Tools and Policies to Promote Open Access, Open Data and Open Education

Wednesday, April 6th, 2022
16:00-18:30 (CEST) // 11:00-13:30 (time in Argentina)

Moderation: Dr Nicolás Patrici, OBREAL Global & Dr Anna Barrera, EU-LAC Foundation

16:00 - 16:20 **Welcoming remarks and brief introduction**

- **Prof. Ramon Torrent** – President, OBREAL Global
- **Dr Adrián Bonilla** – Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation
- **Ms Karina Pombo** – National Director of Science Policy Promotion – International Affairs, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Argentina (in representation of the PPT CELAC)
- **Ms María Cristina Russo** – Director for Global Approach & International Cooperation in R&I, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- **Dr Joan Gómez Pallarès** – Director General for Research, Generalitat de Catalunya

16:20 - 16:40 **Tools and Policies to Promote Open Access, Open Data and Open Education**

Political perspectives from the CELAC and the EU

- **Ms Paola Azrilevich** – Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Argentina
- **Ms Alea López de San Román** – Open Science Unit, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

16:40 - 18:00 *Perspectives from knowledge producers and decision makers from the CELAC and the EU*

- **Dr Dominique Babini** – Advisor to the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) in Open Science
- **Dr Paul Ayris** – Co-Chair of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) INFO Community
- **Dr Ignasi Labastida** – Chair of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) Information and Open Access Policy Group
- **Dr Donovan Campbell** – Head of Department of Geography and Geology at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona Campus in Jamaica
- **Dr Oscar Domínguez** – President of the Latin American and Caribbean Higher Education Area (ENLACES), Executive Director of the Colombian Association of Universities (ASCUN)
- **Mr Lautaro Matas** – Executive Secretary and Technical Manager of the Open Access to Science Repositories Network - LA Referencia

18:00 – 18:10 *Perspectives from India*

- **Prof. Krishna Ganesh** – Director of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India

18:10 - 18:25 *Open discussion, based on questions and comments from participants who are invited to formulate their questions in the Q&A tool of the zoom platform*

18:25 - 18:30 **Wrap-up of first Virtual Dialogue**

- **Dr Adrián Bonilla** – Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation

2) Virtual Dialogue 2: New trends in the evaluation of research and academic merits

Thursday, April 7th, 2022

16:00-18:30 (CEST) // 11:00-13:30 (time in Argentina)

Moderation: *Dr Anna Barrera, EU-LAC Foundation & Dr Nicolás Patrici, OBREAL Global*

16:00 – 16:05 **Welcoming remarks and brief introduction**

- **Dr Adrián Bonilla** – Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation

16:05 – 16:25 **New trends in the evaluation of research and academic merits**

Political perspectives from the CELAC and the EU

- **Ms Marina Larrea** – National Directorate for International Cooperation, Ministry of Education, Argentina
- **Mr Jean Emmanuel Faure** – Unit for Open Science, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

16:25 – 18:00 *Perspectives from evaluators and those being evaluated in CELAC and EU*

- **Dr Bianca Amaro** – President of the Open Access to Science Repositories Network - LA Referencia
- **Prof. Sarah de Rijcke** – Professor of Science, Technology and Innovation Studies, Scientific Director of the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS), Leiden University, Co-chair of the Research on Research Institute (RoRI)
- **Dr Rainer Lange** – Head of Research Policy Department, German Council for Science and Humanities
- **Prof. Daniel Antenucci** – CONICET / University of Mar del Plata, Argentina
- **Prof. Ernest Abadal** – Vice-Rector assigned to the Rector and for Teaching and Research Staff, University of Barcelona
- **Dr Laura Rovelli** – Coordinator of the Latin American Forum on Scientific Evaluation of the Latin American Social Science Council (FOLEC/CLACSO)
- **Prof. Pastora Martínez Samper** – Member of EUA Expert Group on Science 2.0 and Open Science; Chair of the EUA Expert Subgroup on Research Assessment; Vice President for Globalisation and Cooperation - Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)
- **Prof. Bert Overlaet** – Chair of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) Careers of Researchers & HR Policy Group

- 18:00 – 18:10** *Perspectives from Kenya*
- **Ms Joy Owango** – Executive Director, Training Centre in Communication, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- 18:10 – 18:25** *Open discussion, based on questions and comments from participants who are invited to formulate their questions in the Q&A tool of the zoom platform*
- 18:25 – 18:30** **Wrap-up of second Virtual Dialogue and final reflections**
- **Prof. Ramon Torrent** – President, OBREAL Global

3) Report

After the two Virtual Dialogues, one of the institutions supporting the initiative - the Ibero-American Institute of Berlin (IAI), member of OBREAL Global - will produce a report systematising the arguments and proposals discussed in the webinars. This document will be widely disseminated and sent to the organisers of WHEC2022 as a “knowledge product” and genuine input for the “roadmap for a new era of higher education” that UNESCO intends to design after this Conference.

4) Panel at the Third UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC2022)

The present initiative will have a first culmination with the organisation of a multi-regional panel on the subject. The panel will take up the results of the two Virtual Dialogues and the content of the report previously prepared in order to put forward proposals to increase and energise inter-regional cooperation on Open Science and jointly build the desired changes, innovations, and synergies.

Thursday, May 19th, 2022 (16:30-17:30 CEST)
hybrid event (physical participation in Barcelona and virtual attendance)

- 16:30 - 16:40** **Brief introduction**
- **Dr Adrián Bonilla** – Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation
- 16:40 - 17:25** **Innovations and proposals for inter-regional cooperation in Open Science: The perspective of universities and the promotion of open science for inter-regional dialogue**
- **Prof. Michael Murphy** – President of the European University Association (EUA)
 - **Dr Oscar Domínguez** – President of the Latin American and Caribbean Higher Education Area (ENLACES); Executive Director of the Colombian Association of Universities (ASCUN)
 - **Prof. Olusola Oyewole** – Secretary General of the Association of African Universities (AAU)

- Participant 4: India / ASEAN

Moderation: Prof Ramón Torrent - President OBREAL Global

17:25 - 17:30 **Conclusions**

- **Dr Adrián Bonilla** – Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation

Expected results

- Increased knowledge and visibility of existing best practices, instruments, initiatives and policies on open science in LAC, the EU and other regions;
- Open exchange promoted among professionals and experts from LAC, the EU and other regions on challenges and transformative solutions in Open Science;
- Proposals generated to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science and other similar recommendations at regional and national levels;
- Publication and dissemination of a document compiling the conversations held among the Virtual Dialogues' participants that will be transmitted to UNESCO as a relevant contribution to the Third World Higher Education Conference to be held on May 18-20, 2022, in Barcelona.

Languages

For the Virtual Dialogues, simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English-Spanish.

The report will initially be produced in English and Spanish, we will propose to UNESCO to translate the document into all official languages of this organisation.

The organisers of WHEC2022 will be asked to provide simultaneous interpretation during the Panel in all the languages in which the Conference will be held.