



EU-LAC Foundation  
Fundación EU-LAC

EU-LAC FOUNDATION'S NEWSLETTER

# Contributions to the EU-LAC agenda: from the bi-regional care pact to higher education and cultural cooperation

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## Opinion Article



### IDEAS TO CONCRETISE A ‘BI-REGIONAL PACT FOR CARE’

**Dr. Anna Barrera**

Director of Programmes, EU-LAC Foundation

As you will read in this newsletter, the EU-LAC Foundation organised a high-level dialogue with numerous ministers, representatives of the European Commission, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), and civil society as a side event to the 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68) on 14 March 2024. The report of this dialogue shows that all political authorities present have spoken out in favour of a bi-regional pact. What is more, programmes and instruments through which such a cooperation could be facilitated and supported at the EU level (e.g. EUROsocial programme, Team Europe Initiative (TEI) ‘Inclusive and Equal Societies’) have also been put at the table.

#### What is the background of the Bi-regional Pact for Care?

Two essential initiatives on the European and on the LAC side in 2022 provided the impetus for the strengthened cooperation between the two regions in the area of care:

(1) the **‘European Care Strategy’** adopted in September 2022, as well as the **‘Recommendations on the Revision of the Barcelona Targets on early childhood education and care and on access to affordable high-quality long-term care’**, adopted by the European Council in December 2022, set out an agenda to improve the situation of both caregivers and people in need of care. This agenda aims to guarantee quality, affordable, and accessible care services, with better working conditions, gender equality, and work-life balance for caregivers. Those efforts contribute to the implementation of the **European Pillar of Social Rights** and the **European Union 2030 headline targets on employment, skills and poverty reduction**.

(2) the **‘Buenos Aires Commitment’**, agreed upon at the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in November 2022, which recognises care as a right of people to care, to be cared for and exercise selfcare. It includes measures to overcome the sexual division of labour and move towards a fair social organisation of care, in the framework of a new development model that fosters gender equality in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and to move towards a care society.

Throughout 2023, numerous actors - civil society organisations, parliamentarians, and international organisations - took up this impetus and developed it further. At the EU-LAC Gender Equality Forum organised by the EU-LAC Foundation, which took place in Berlin on 11 and 12 May 2023, participants suggested ‘exploring new modalities of cooperation for the development of joint bi-regional pacts, such as a bi-regional pact for care’.

Participants invited by the EU Commission to the **‘EU-LAC Forum: Partners in Change: Youth, Civil Society and Local Authorities’** on 13 and 14 July 2023 in the run-up to the EU-CELAC Heads of State and Government Summit picked up on this thread and recommended in their declaration to ‘promote a bi-regional pact for care based on the European Care Strategy and the Buenos Aires Declaration on the Care Society’.

Similarly, the parliamentarians attending the **Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EURO-LAT) in Madrid from 24 to 27 July 2023** signed a commitment to promote gender equality, which calls for ‘strengthening bi-regional

cooperation to guarantee the right to care, care and self-care in equal and quality conditions, thus promoting the consolidation and financing of comprehensive care systems in all Latin American, Caribbean, and European countries’.

### Key elements for a common care agenda

EU member states and the CELAC states not only share a general commitment to social rights, social justice, human rights, and gender equality, but also aligned interests regarding the design of comprehensive care policies and systems. Political leaders in both regions also face significant challenges (e.g., in relation to the recognition of care work, fiscal sustainability of care policies, professionalisation of the sector) and - importantly - they can learn from each other.

In our view, a joint agenda for care could therefore include the following lines of action:

– **Comparative studies and analyses to provide systematised, evidence-based on care-related issues, offering diagnosis and specific policy recommendations** on topics such as:

- Time use in care.
- Investment required to close the gap between the supply and demand of care services for different populations, as well as prospective analyses of positive economic impacts that such investment generates.
- Maternity, paternity, parental leave regulations and their conditions of application.
- Regulations and working conditions of care workers and their link to female migration flows in both regions.

– **Exchange of advances and effective practices in the design of care policies, systems, programmes, assessing their respective impacts as well as replicability in the countries of each region and options for scaling up such experiences.** Themes of interest would include:

- Policy and regulatory frameworks in the field of care.
- Mechanisms and institutional architecture of policies and comprehensive care systems.
- Quality standards for early childhood education, care services and long-term care for dependent persons.

- Care training and professionalisation strategies.
- Instruments for financing care policies and systems.

– **Promote subregional, regional, and multilateral cooperation programmes** through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation modalities, that advance gender equality and care policies and systems as well as the necessary cultural change for the gender and social co-responsibility between State, private sector, families, communities and between women and men.

These lines of action are certainly not exhaustive but could constitute approaches towards a “Pact for Care” to which all stakeholders advocating for the Pact – the academic communities, civil society groups, local and national authorities, international cooperation agencies, regional, bi-regional and international organisations and banks, could contribute, leveraging their respective expertise and knowledge, resources and capabilities. Conceived in this manner, a comprehensive agenda for care between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean would constitute a strong counterweight amidst shrinking spaces for democracy and human rights and pervasive, gender, economic and social inequalities, and operate as a positive guidepost of a renewed multilateral international agenda.

## News

### EU-LAC Foundation organises workshop to promote joint higher education initiatives between Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean

11 April 2024



The EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation and the EU-CELAC Common Higher Education Area were promoted at a successful workshop held at the Cervantes Institute in Hamburg on 8 and 9 April. The event, organised by the EU-LAC Foundation, followed up on the most recent agreements of the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation Senior Officials Meeting (JIRI SOM).

[More information!](#)

### EU-LAC Foundation attends the launch meeting of the LAC-EU Doctoral Network as an Associate Partner

22 April 2024



'Understanding Latin America's Challenges in the 21st Century (LAC-EU)' is the name of the new Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions Doctoral Network, of which the EU-LAC Foundation is an Associate Partner. The LAC-EU initiative seeks to provide a novel, comprehensive and interdisciplinary framework for understanding Latin America and the Caribbean and their relationship with the EU.

[More information!](#)



## EU-LAC Foundation strengthens partnerships for gender equality at CSW 68

18 March 2024



The EU-LAC Foundation recommitted itself to the promotion of gender equality and the implementation of the right to care during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. The Foundation's participation in various bilateral events and meetings underlined its essential role in strengthening dialogue and cooperation between Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean on critical gender and care issues.

[More information!](#)

## Progress towards a Bi-regional Care Pact between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union

15 March 2024



The foundations for a Bi-regional Pact for Care between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union were discussed by representatives of governments, international organisations, and civil society organisations during a high-level dialogue co-organised by the EU-LAC Foundation in the framework of CSW 68. At the meeting, proposals were made to promote the development of public policies and comprehensive care systems in both regions.

[More information!](#)

## EU-LAC Foundation participates as an observer in the VIII Summit of CELAC

05 March 2024



St. Vincent and the Grenadines welcomed representatives of the 33 countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) to the VIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the regional mechanism. The promise to maintain peace, harmony, and cooperation among the nations of the region was one of the most prominent themes of the meeting.

[More information!](#)

## The European Union and the Andean states reaffirm the need for crucial collaboration

09 February 2024



Bi-regional relations between the Andean countries and the European Union were the focus of a seminar organised by the EU-LAC Foundation and the Andean Community. The event discussed opportunities for cooperation, with emphasis on the Global Gateway Investment Agenda, and the green and digital transitions. At the opening of the seminar, the Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation, Dr Adrián Bonilla, highlighted the context following the III EU-CELAC Summit as a crucial opportunity to strengthen ties between the two groups.

[More information!](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Long Night of the Consulates 2024

**Date and Place:** 30 April 2024, EU-LAC Foundation, ABC-Strasse 2, 20354 Hamburg.



The EU-LAC Foundation will once again take part in the Consulates Long Night on 30 April, hosting a series of cultural and culinary events. The celebrations will begin at 18:00 with a Mariachi event with Hamburg-Mexiko e.V. and Uvas de Mexico, followed at 19:00 by a Coffee Tasting with the International Women's Coffee Alliance (IFKAD). At 20:00 a Quiz by the EU-LAC Foundation will test the participants' knowledge on the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean. The event will end at 21:00 p.m. with an activity by the Consulate of Honduras.

[More information](#)

### 3rd EU-LAC Forum of Journalists: Opportunities and challenges for journalism in the context of the digital transformation

**Date and Place:** 07 June 2024, Rio de Janeiro

The EU-LAC Foundation, in collaboration with the School of Communication, Media and Information at Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV ECMI), will organise the 3rd EU-LAC Forum of Journalists with media professionals from the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean. This initiative invites participants to exchange on the opportunities and challenges that the digital transformation presents to the field of journalism, with a focus on the use and regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the fight against disinformation.

[More information!](#)

### Colloquium 2024: "Social protection systems, public policies and social challenges of ageing in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean"

**Date and Place:** 29 – 30 May 2024, Paris



On 29 and 30 May, the EU-LAC Foundation will participate as co-organiser of the event 'Social protection systems, public policies and social challenges of ageing in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean'. The call to specialists and researchers will seek to provide a variety of perspectives on political, social, economic and cooperation issues related to the challenge of population ageing.

[More information](#)

### EU-LAC cooperation to combat the Illicit Maritime Trade of Drugs

**Date and Place:** 10 June 2024, Brussels

This seminar, organised by the EU-LAC Foundation, aims to promote a dialogue between key actors from civil society, governments, and international organisations on the illicit maritime drug trade between the two regions, as well as to examine current and future forms of bi-regional cooperation.

[More information!](#)



# Blog Articles

## Rethinking Solutions for Caribbean Development

**Richard Kelly:** UNDP Country Specialist for the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean countries in the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

15 January 2024



Caribbean islands are small island developing states (SIDS) boasting rich biodiversity, vibrant cultures, and physical beauty. They are unique, but have similar vulnerabilities, including small, open economies; inadequate institutional capacities; limited resilience to external shocks; limited economic alternatives and reliance on few climate-sensitive sectors; high indebtedness; and degraded natural ecosystems. These challenges are compounded by

high risk to natural hazards, climate change, and amplified by COVID-19. Notwithstanding, the Caribbean like other SIDS, are recognised for their ownership and leadership in advancing the SIDS Agenda. How do these countries even try to address these diverse and inter-linked challenges?

[🔗 Continue reading](#)

## Recent Publications



### Report: High Level Dialogue: “Basis for a Bi-regional Care Pact between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union”.

This report brings together the ideas discussed at the High Level Dialogue: “Basis for a Bi-regional Pact for Care between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union”, organised by the EU-LAC Foundation, UN Women and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in partnership with the Global Alliance for Care, the National Institute for Women of Mexico (INMUJERES), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Equality of Spain. The conversation revolved around the elements of the Bi-regional Pact for Care presented at the 65th Steering Committee of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[See the publication!](#)

### Report: Seminar “Opportunities offered by the cooperation between the European Union and the Andean countries: Global Gateway, investments, trade and green and digital transitions”

This report summarises the exchange held during a seminar co-organised by the EU-LAC Foundation and the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (CAN). The event allowed to identify opportunities arising from the Global Gateway Investment Agenda, and to formulate proposals for improving and strengthening cooperation, as well as to assess trends in European cooperation. Furthermore, the challenges of bi-regional cooperation were addressed.

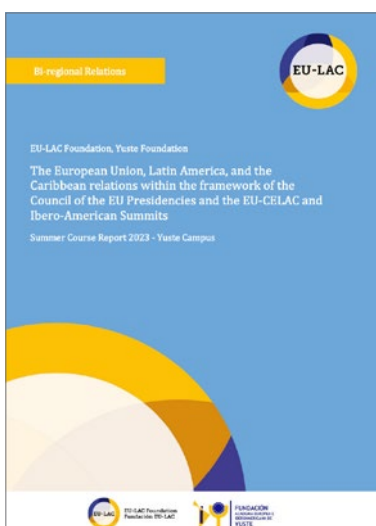
[See the publication!](#)



### Summer Course Report 2023 - Yuste Campus: The European Union, Latin America, and the Caribbean relations within the framework of the Council of the EU Presidencies and the EU-CELAC and Ibero-American Summits

This report aims to summarise and clarify the key points of the summer course “European Union, Latin America and Caribbean Relations in the Framework of the EU Council Presidencies and the EU-CELAC and Ibero-American Summits”, which took place in hybrid format on 27, 28 and 29 June 2023 at the Monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste, Extremadura.

[See the publication!](#)





## Policy Brief No. 7

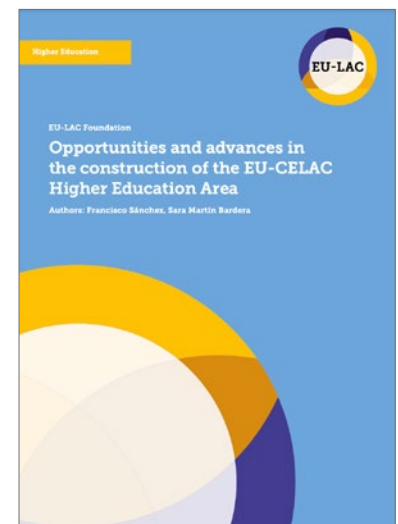
The search for more sustainable lithium supply chains between raw material producing and consuming regions was the objective of researchers from Latin America and Europe, coordinated by the Geneva Graduate Institute. The EU-LAC Foundation accompanied this process, from which this Policy Brief was generated. It outlines the main challenges for sustainability and environmental, social, and economic justice facing lithium mining in the salt flats.

[See the publication!](#)

## Opportunities and advances in the construction of the EU-CELAC Higher Education Area

This book delves into one of the fundamental pillars of the bi-regional strategic partnership: education. The text explores issues such as skills development, knowledge creation and transfer to foster the effective insertion of young people in a changing labour market that requires increasingly diverse and specific skills. With this publication, the EU-LAC Foundation sought to contribute to the dialogue between governmental actors, specialised entities, academic communities, and research networks.

[See the publication!](#)



## Food Security. Challenges and Opportunities for EU-LAC Relations Open configuration options

This monograph addresses, from different perspectives, a long-standing but still highly topical issue: food security. The publication focuses on relations between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean. It offers a diagnosis and a framework for cooperation based on the bi-regional strategic partnership that has been a shared objective since 1999.

[See the publication!](#)



## Cultural Cooperation between European, Latin American, and Caribbean

In December 2023, the EU-LAC Foundation organised a series of events to address the topic of cultural cooperation between the European Union, Latin American and the Caribbean. As a result of these events three texts were published:



**The Report: Seminar “International Cultural Cooperation in the face of a changed scenario: constructing a shared agenda between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union”** gathers the proposals to promote bi-regional cultural cooperation made during the event, as well as an analysis of the challenges to be faced in the coming years in the cultural sphere.

[📄 See the publication!](#)

**The Report: XIV EU-LAC Reflection Forum: “Challenges and opportunities for the construction of a shared cultural cooperation agenda between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union”** highlights the existing agreements between the two regions, as well as the ways in which culture can be promoted and fostered, seeking to reach a larger and more diverse audience.

[📄 See the publication!](#)

The working document **“Cultural Cooperation between European, Latin American and Caribbean countries: concepts, strategies and good practices”** reflects on the state of International Cultural Cooperation in a context characterised by multiple global and regional crises and challenges. It also seeks to broaden perspectives and contents, as well as to identify new actors and to generate proposals on strategies, instruments and practices which have the potential to strengthen cultural cooperation between European, Latin American, and Caribbean societies.

[📄 See the publication!](#)



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