

II ACADEMIC AND KNOWLEDGE SUMMIT UE-CELAC

SPAIN 2023
SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, GALICIA

Collaborating entities:



Santiago de Compostela Declaration of the II EU-CELAC Academic and Knowledge Summit





The university and scientific community, rectors, academic authorities, faculty, researchers, students, and administrative officials of universities and other higher education and research institutions, as well as the councils, conferences, associations, and networks that comprise them, gathered together in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, on the occasion of the II EU-CELAC Academic and Knowledge Summit, on 4-5 May 2023, as part of the roadmap of preparatory activities for the III Summit of Heads of State and of Government of the countries of the European Union and of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, which will take place in Brussels, Belgium, on 17-18 July 2023;

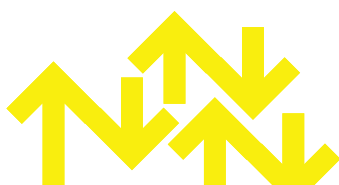
Guided by the common principles and vision that inspire the bi-regional strategic association between the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), an association based on historical, cultural and human ties, the strict observance of the purposes and principles of the International Law and the Charter of the United Nations, the desire for collaboration and cooperation between our nations and full respect for all human rights;

Sharing the firm commitment to achieving more prosperous, cohesive, inclusive and sustainable societies, for the benefit of our peoples and of future generations;

Aware that knowledge is the firmest base from which a sustainable and inclusive development model must be promoted that guarantees the economic, social, cultural and environmental progress of our peoples, through the promotion of higher education, science, technology and innovation, leaving no one behind and free from unilateral coercive measures that are contrary to international law;

With the purpose of contributing to the construction of the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean common space for higher education, science, technology and innovation through the generation and management of knowledge, integration and EU-CELAC bi-regional strategic cooperation;

And with the specific objectives of designing strategies and instruments that allow the development of this bi-regional common space and the exchange of knowledge; influence the formulation of national and international public policies, plans and programmes through the creation of spaces for dialogue and agreement, the elaboration of scientific-based proposals and the link between the academy and the environment; and guide academic action and the generation of knowledge towards the achievement of the Objectives and Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





Considering:

That the EU-CELAC Summits of Heads of State and Government, as well as the bi-regional cooperation mechanisms and actions that derive from them, constitute a framework to promote measures that favour the advancement of public knowledge policies and collaboration between academic institutions;

That education, science, technology and innovation constitute a relevant part of the priorities and objectives of the bi-regional strategic association that is reflected and specified in chapters 1, 5 and 9 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan approved at the last Summit in Brussels (2015), in which the role and importance of the active participation of universities is recognized and highlighted;

That the construction of a more prosperous, fair and supportive society, with a sustainable integral human development model, must be assumed by all nations and by global society as a whole. In this sense, the development of the 2030 Agenda and the actions for the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals must become a fundamental priority of governments and of the work of higher education, science, technology and innovation;

That Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe share important challenges in a world where knowledge, development and strengthening of higher education, science, technology and innovation constitute fundamental pillars for social advancement, wealth generation, reduction of regional disparities, the strengthening of cultural identities, social cohesion, the fight against poverty and hunger, care for the environment, prevention of climate change, generation of renewable energy, as well as the promotion of a culture of peace;

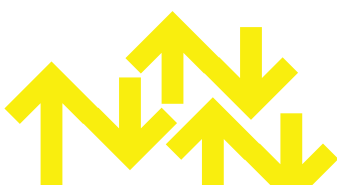
That the European and Latin American and Caribbean spaces for higher education, science, technology and innovation have different degrees of consolidation and academic integration, therefore the creation of a bi-regional space implies differentiated collaboration efforts

under the principles of solidarity, cooperation and complementarity, which meet the particular needs of the countries;

The Declaration and Action Plan adopted within the framework of the I EU-CELAC Academic and Knowledge Summit, held in San Salvador, El Salvador, on 5-6 October 2017.

We agree on:

1. Reaffirming and renewing our adherence to the principles and objectives enshrined in the Argentine University Reform of 1918 and the Magna Charta of European Universities (1988), as well as the declarations of the Regional Conferences of Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Havana (1996), Cartagena de Indias (2008) and Córdoba (2018), the World Conferences on Higher Education in Paris (1998 and 2009), and the World Conference on Science for the 21st Century (1999).
2. Supporting the call for action made by the Summit on the Transformation of Education (New York, 16, 17 and 19h September 2022), convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and held during the 77th session of the General Assembly, as a key initiative of Our Common Agenda in order to respond to the global education crisis in terms of equality, inclusion, quality and relevance, to place education at the top of the global political agenda and to mobilize the action, solidarity and the search for solutions and transform education in a world in constant evolution.
3. Establishing an Alliance with the United Nations System that allows, from the commitment of universities to the Sustainable Development Goals, to reinforce the participation of higher education and research institutions in the promotion and





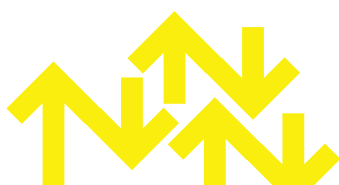
development of the 2030 Agenda, linking them with the Summit of the Future scheduled for 2024, both with its preparatory process and with the implementation of the results achieved in it.

4. Reaffirming our commitment to the construction of the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Space for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, based on the strengthening of existing spaces, forums, mechanisms and instruments for dialogue and cooperation, the promotion of new ones and the active participation of regional networks and associations of universities, as well as civil society.
5. Deepening the promotion of academic mobility, cooperation between institutions and the exchange of experiences and good practices in teaching, research, extension and management, making intensive use of the opportunities of existing national and international programs and promoting its extension, the creation of new ones and the use of synergies between them.
6. Promoting bilateral, regional and bi-regional agreements for the recognition of studies, titles and diplomas, within the framework of university autonomy, as an initiative to bring the European, Latin American and Caribbean higher education systems close together.
7. Promoting strategic action on the digital transformation of higher education that includes the new opportunities offered by artificial intelligence, both in the field of teaching and learning as well as in research, innovation and management.
8. Promoting the EU-CELAC Campus initiative, aimed at promoting strategic partnerships between higher education institutions that include, among others, academic mobility, co-degree or double degree, scientific cooperation, entrepreneurship, sustainability and digital transformation actions.
9. Encouraging and accompanying the creation of a collaboration framework between the national and regional systems of evaluation, quality assurance and accreditation of higher education of CELAC and the EU, with the participation of universities, as a basis to facilitate the academic mobility and recognition of study periods and degrees, as well as the internationalization of quality processes and systems in both regions. In this sense, we congratulate ourselves on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ibero-American System for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (SIACES) and the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), encouraging its development.
10. Promoting cooperation between scientific research, technology and innovation systems, particularly in the fields of doctoral and post-doctoral training and the mobility of researchers, the shared use of infrastructures and scientific capacities, the promotion of innovation and the participation of scientists from both regions in joint strategic research and innovation projects, taking advantage of the framework offered by the main current national and international instruments, especially the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation (JIRI), promoting a greater linkage of higher education institutions with it and its governance.
11. Continuing to improve the articulation of the actions promoted by JIRI with the initiatives promoted through other multilateral mechanisms that promote international cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation, such as the STS Forum, the Ibero-American Space of Knowledge (SEGIB) and the EU-LAC Foundation, in order to foster synergies, strengthen scientific links and contribute to the EU-CELAC Knowledge Area, as already underlined by the VIII Meeting of High Authorities of Science and Technology (SOM), held virtually on 30 October 2020.



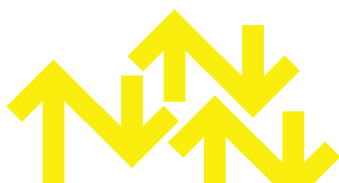


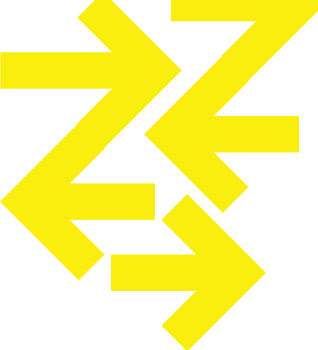
12. Underlining that progress towards the Common Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Space for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation requires a coordinated and generous effort from all the institutions that are willing to work for it. For this, it must be endowed with an institutional framework that promotes its continuous progress and supports bi-regional articulation, as established by the Declaration of the I Academic and Knowledge Summit, as well as providing the necessary financing for its development.
13. Strengthening the EU-CELAC University Council, established within the framework of the I Academic and Knowledge Summit, as a representative organization and institutional forum for dialogue, agreement and cooperation between universities, councils, conferences, associations and university networks of both regions.
14. Promoting, with the collaboration of the EU-CELAC University Council, an Alliance for Knowledge composed of higher education, scientific, technological and innovation institutions, together with other public and private actors, all of them united by their commitment to the construction of the Common Space. This Alliance will promote higher education, science, technology and innovation, encouraging cooperation between the various actors, fostering a better mutual understanding, and in this way promoting the effective and efficient use of resources, instruments, optimizing the participation in them and the resources available, and promoting their improvement.
15. Requesting the Heads of State and Government, within the framework of the III EU-CELAC Summit, to consider the proposals contained in this Declaration and agree on concrete measures, including financial ones, to give new impetus to the construction of Space Common for Higher Education and Knowledge, from a comprehensive vision of higher education, science, technology and innovation, and in particular, we request:
 - a. That they continue advancing in the creation of the regulatory, financial and structural conditions to develop the common space for higher education, science, technology and innovation, promoting the establishment and consolidation of strategic alliances between governments, the productive sector, civil society organizations and institutions, universities, science, technology and innovation.
 - b. That, for a better coordination and greater effectiveness and efficiency of bi-regional action in the field of science, technology and innovation, structural links be established between the Meeting of High Authorities of the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation and the universities, facilitating the articulation and participation of these both in the definition of the actions and in their development, monitoring and evaluation.
 - c. That they promote the creation of a Ministerial Forum and High Authorities of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, as a permanent bi-regional space for dialogue and political and academic agreement, with the participation of governments, universities and other relevant actors.
 - d. That they support the constitution and development of the Alliance for Knowledge, an initiative promoted by this II Academic and Knowledge Summit to contribute to the articulation, promotion and monitoring of the Common Space for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.
 - e. That they adopt the pertinent measures so that the instruments for bi-regional cooperation in higher education, science, technology and innovation consider in a common framework all the countries that constitute the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the European Union.





16. Requesting the institutions that make up the Organizing Committee of this II Academic and Knowledge Summit, together with the EU-CELAC University Council, to take the necessary measures to comply with the agreements contained in this Declaration, including the preparation and development of an Action Plan that includes the implementation of the conclusions reached in the three Thematic Axes of the Summit: Digital Transformation; Knowledge for Sustainability; and Academic Cooperation.
17. Welcoming and highlighting the importance of holding the III EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, which will take place in Brussels (Belgium) on 17-18 July 2023, wishing it the greatest success and trusting that it will contribute to deepening the bi-regional strategic association, for the benefit of the Member States and peoples of both communities.
18. Thanking the permanent support of the EU-LAC Foundation for bi-regional university and scientific cooperation, as well as to recognize its valuable role for dialogue and interaction between the academic and knowledge spheres, and the political and governmental spheres.
19. Expressing our sincere gratitude to the institutions that have contributed to the celebration of the Summit with their sponsorship and support, especially the Xunta de Galicia, the University of Santiago de Compostela, the Government of Spain, the Ibero-American General Secretariat, UNESCO, the European Union and CELAC.
20. Also thanking the Government of Spain, the State to which the Presidency of the Council of the European Union will correspond in the second semester of 2023, for its support and willingness to transfer this Declaration to the III EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government.
21. Extending our gratitude to the Galician University System and to the city of Santiago de Compostela for the warm welcome they have given to us, as well as to the Organizing Committee for the excellent organization of this II Academic and Knowledge Summit.
22. Accepting the generous offer of the National Association of Universities and Institutions of Higher Education of Mexico (ANUIES) as host of the III EU-CELAC Academic and Knowledge Summit, to be held in 2025.





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