EU-CELAC Academic Cooperation through Erasmus+: opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean

What is Erasmus+?
Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. Erasmus+ funds academic and youth mobility and cooperation between Europe and other regions in the world, including Latin America and the Caribbean.

Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the EU’s priorities for cooperation policy with these regions. CELAC countries can take part in Erasmus+ as Partner Countries in four types of projects in the higher education sector, and in youth cooperation projects.

Three years into the programme, we can see how popular these initiatives are with CELAC countries.

Student and staff mobility, 2015-2017
This year we celebrate 30 years since the first students moved between European universities in the Erasmus programme. With Erasmus+ this type of short-term mobility for students, researchers, and staff has also been extended to cooperation beyond Europe allowing students to study in a foreign university for 3-12 months and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. A grant for staff mobility is also possible for 5-60 days.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all the European Countries. European institutions make up bilateral partnerships with universities in Latin America or the Caribbean and apply on behalf of their partners.

The budget for Latin America makes up almost 5% of the entire ICM budget and so far has allowed establishing 523 projects for bilateral partnerships that organise mobility for over 4500 students, researchers, and staff.

The Freie Universität Berlin manages an international mobility project with countries in Latin America, including the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Under this partnership, three students and four staff will travel to study, teach or train in Germany. Additionally, one researcher and three staff members from Germany will go to Colombia. The cooperation focuses on mobility in the field of political science and supports fields of study such as equity and inclusion.

Latin America - mobility per country:

Caribbean - mobility per country:

Mobility has been open to Caribbean countries since 2016 as part of a region covering all Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries, which together benefit from around 3% of the world budget. The projects for the Caribbean plan for 365 individuals to move between Europe and nine Caribbean countries.
Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs) award full-degree scholarships to Master students from around the world covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different European countries. Upon graduation, they are awarded a joint or double degree, or multiple degrees.

Students can apply to these programmes even if the university where they studied is not involved in any of them. They have to look for the available programmes in the EMJMD Catalogue and apply directly to the programme coordinator: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/emjmd-catalogue_en

Latin American or Caribbean institutions can also be part of the consortia that deliver these programmes, as Full Partners, which means they officially award degrees, or as Associated Partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of capacity, but do not award the actual joint degree.

Latin American partners
From 2014 to 2017, 89 institutions from Latin America were involved in 127 EMJMDs. Of these 127 programmes, Latin American institutions took part as associated partners in 111 of these instances, and as full partners in 16 of these instances. Countries with the highest rate of participation in EMJMD programmes were Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico. Top participating institutions were the Universidade de São Paulo in Brazil, which was involved in a total of nine EMJMDs, and the Universidad Autónoma de México in seven EMJMDs.

Caribbean partners
From 2014 to 2017, two institutions from the Caribbean were involved in two EMJMDs. In both instances, the institutions acted as Associated Partners.

Erasmus Mundus scholarships awarded, 2014-2017

EMTM: European Master in Tourism Management
This two-year joint master programme provides future professionals with an integrated knowledge of the dynamics of tourism development, sustainable management, the role of cultural diversity, and innovation and governance in contemporary tourism.

In the fourth semester of study, students have the option of researching and writing their master thesis at an Associated Partner institution, among them the Universidade de São Paulo in Brazil and Quelantaro S.A. in Nicaragua.

IDOH: Infectious Diseases and One Health
This Master Degree programme involves a partnership of some of Europe’s leading research-intensive universities in the field of infectious diseases. The consortium aims to offer innovative postgraduate courses in infectious diseases, emphasising the three aspects of the one health concept: humans, animals, and the environment. After completing the first three semesters at Partner Country institutions in Europe, students complete an internship and draft their thesis in any Partner Country institution worldwide, including Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in Saint Kitts and Nevis.
**Capacity Building in Higher Education**

There are two types of Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) projects, which all last from two to three years. Joint projects are aimed at modernising and reforming higher education institutions, developing new curricula, improving governance, and building relationships between higher education institutions and enterprises. Structural projects can also tackle policy topics and issues, preparing the ground for higher education reform, in cooperation with national authorities.

Capacity building projects can be addressed to a group of Latin American Countries or to a single Caribbean country and they can also be cross-regional and include partners both from Latin America and the Caribbean. Before 2014, the EU supported regional programmes with similar aims: ALFA for Latin America, and Edulink for Caribbean (as well as African and Pacific) countries.

So far, 47 projects are focused on Latin America and one on the Caribbean:

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<th>Organisations in 48 CBHE projects for LAC, selected 2015-2017</th>
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<td>Brazil</td>
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<td>Coordinators</td>
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**Jean Monnet Activities**

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. For over 25 years they have been supporting Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence to promote excellence in teaching and research on the European integration process at higher education level. The programme also supports policy debate with the academic world and a number of associations in the domain of EU studies.

**Latin America**

Out of a total of 966 successful applications to Jean Monnet between 2014 and 2017, 18 are Latin American projects managed by institutions from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, and Mexico. Although a Centre of Excellence has yet to be established in the region, there have been 7 JM Chairs, 6 JM Modules, 2 JM Projects, 2 JM Networks, and 1 JM Institution.

**BRAZIL–CAENI-EU**

This project provides support to Universidade de São Paulo to integrate EU issues into research, support and training programmes for Brazilian diplomats and international negotiations. This 3-year project promotes research on Brazil-EU relations and includes, for example, a teaching course of 150 hours on MERCOSUR-EU Dialogue, a young researchers seminar, publications and dissemination activities with civil society.

Institutions in the Caribbean have yet to pursue opportunities in Jean Monnet. For institutions with solid experience in European Studies, Jean Monnet is a useful source of funding.
Capacity Building in the Field of Youth

Capacity Building projects in the Field of Youth cover a range of activities that encourage cooperation between organisations active in youth empowerment, education of youth, youth training, and other relevant socioeconomic sectors in Programme and Partner Countries from different regions of the world. The projects aim to recognize and improve youth work, non-formal learning, and volunteering, and consequently link this to education systems and the labour market.

Latin America

During the selection periods between 2014 and 2017, 135 projects in Latin America have been approved or re-approved. Projects are varied in subject-matter, ranging from topics like climate change and human rights to meditation, journalism, and technology.

The Caribbean

During the selection periods between 2014 and 2017, 12 projects in the Caribbean have been approved, involving Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. Six of these projects also involve Latin American partners.

More information:

An annex to this factsheet, with more detailed information about EU-CELAC cooperation can be found on:
http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/international-cooperation/latin-america_en

Erasmus+ website: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en
Erasmus+ projects & results: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/
Erasmus+ funding opportunities: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en
ALFA: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/latin-america/regional-cooperation/alfa/index_en.htm_en
Edulink: http://www.acp-hestr.eu/
Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association: www.em-a.eu
Study in Europe: http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/

Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in English).