

EU-LAC Digital Accelerator launches its first call for corporates willing to collaboratively address their digital challenges in Smart Production

EU-LAC Digital Accelerator connects innovative corporates and startups from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and offers tailored acceleration services to strengthen these EU-LAC Partnerships.

The European Commission is funding this initiative within the framework of the Global Gateway EU-LAC Digital Alliance, which aims to **boost business relations and promote new shared business opportunities** between these two regions. It is led by TECNALIA and major international benchmarks such as IESE Business School, WAYRA-Telefónica, European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN), European Business Angels Network (EBAN), Expertise France, TECNALIA-Ventures, Inter-American Development Bank IDB-Lab, TECNALIA-Colombia and Caribbean Export participate in the consortium. Their objective is to support the development of these business partnerships to an investment-ready stage by providing specific services tailored to the needs of each of them.

Call for corporates digital challenges

EU-LAC Digital Accelerator invites companies based in Europe, Latin America and/or the Caribbean to share their challenges **in the field of Smart Production** and to receive solution proposals from innovative startups and SMEs.

This is the first call for challenges launched by EU-LAC Digital Accelerator, in this case around the digitisation of production environments and processes. The challenge of smart production concerns a wide variety of economic activities, mainly in the primary (agriculture, livestock, fisheries, mining and forestry) and secondary (agri-food, automotive, chemical, pharmaceutical, metal mechanics, textile and construction industries, among others) sectors.

Benefits for participating

EU-LAC Digital Accelerator promotes the **connection between corporates and startups to drive digital transformation**. In the first instance, it calls corporates willing to address their digital transformation challenges through open innovation and collaboration with startups. Secondly, it connects these corporates with startups whose solutions meet their challenges of improvement, renewal and/or diversification by taking advantage of the opportunities of digital technologies.



Among the **benefits** offered by EU-LAC Digital Accelerator to corporates willing to participate, the following are worth highlighting:

- Support in identifying challenges to face digital transformation.
- Connecting with relevant startups to improve, renew and/or diversify your business.
- Customised acceleration services (e.g. establishment of a business roadmap, demonstration of concept or design of a business case) for a value of up to €40,000 for each EU-LAC Partnership generated.
- Connecting with investors and funding institutions.

Participants and criteria

EU-LAC Digital Accelerator is **looking for corporates** with a willingness to open innovation that also have innovative digital challenges and are interested in seeking potential partnerships with startups to identify joint business opportunities.

Eligibility of participants:

- Corporates established in **Europe, Latin America or the Caribbean** willing to digitally transform their production processes and face their challenges in a collaborative way through open innovation.
- Corporates that are already developing alliances with startups through Joint Venture processes and that are looking for mechanisms to strengthen their alliance.

Interested corporates will find additional information on the [website](#) and should contact EU-LAC Digital Accelerator directly: a team of experts will help you define your challenges and complete the participation process.

eulacdigitalaccelerator.com

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Additional information for Press Contacts

About the EU-LAC Digital Alliance

The EU-LAC Digital Alliance is based on a common human-centric vision of the digital economy and society in which the design, development, governance, and use of technology are guided by universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. This vision encompasses the rule of law and democratic principles, transparency and accountability, high levels of cybersecurity and the protection of privacy and personal data, as well as solidarity, inclusion, security and environmental sustainability. To uphold these values, we will cooperate in the fight against online disinformation.

About NDICI-Global Europe

The new NDICI- Global Europe instrument merges several former EU external financing instruments. It aims to support countries most in need to overcome long-term developmental challenges and will contribute to achieving the international commitments and objectives that the Union has agreed to, in particular the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

About the EU-LAC Digital Accelerator

It is a multi-sided platform that connects business opportunities from large corporations to start-ups and innovative SMEs, supporting these joint ventures up until an investment-ready stage and providing specific benefits for each of them. It will mobilise support to increase their digital innovation capacities and facilitate partnerships between the EU and LAC private sectors in areas where the EU has strong expertise and technology.

About TECNALIA

TECNALIA Research & Innovation is the largest center of applied research and technological development in Spain, a benchmark in Europe and a member of the Basque Research and Technology Alliance. TECNALIA collaborates with companies and institutions to improve their competitiveness, people's quality of life and achieve sustainable growth.

About Tecnalia Ventures

TECNALIA Ventures is a deep tech venture builder whose mission is to foster growth through the development of technology-based business opportunities. We work with companies to improve, renew and diversify the businesses through open innovation.

About IESE Business School

IESE – University of Navarra is a leading business school with headquarters in Spain and with presence in Europe, United States and Latin America. Its mission is creating a positive impact in society by providing the insights, networks and funding necessary to bring entrepreneurial dreams to life.

About EBN

EBN is the European Business and Innovation Centre Network whose mission is to build strong innovation networks that support the economic development of European regions by, among others, fostering entrepreneurial innovations, including the acceleration of new enterprises and fostering innovation in existing enterprises.

About EBAN

EBAN is the European Business Angels Network acting as the pan- European representative for the early-stage investor community gathering over 100 member organizations in more than 50 countries Its mission is driving successful and responsible Angel Investing in Europe.



About Expertise France

Expertise France is the French international technical cooperation agency, with a status of public institution under the joint supervision of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the Ministries for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery. Its mission is to design and implement international technical cooperation projects.

About Tecnalía Colombia

Tecnalía Colombia is a technological development and innovation center dedicated to the preparation and execution of applied research projects, development of new technologies and transfer activities to respond to the needs of the industry.

About WAYRA Hispam

WAYRA Hispam is the technological innovation hub started in Latin America and Spain as an initiative of Telefónica, connecting technological disruptors to scale them up and accelerate their business. It offers investment and smooth interface between entrepreneurs and corporates, governments and other partners.

About Caribbean Export Development Agency

Caribbean Export is the regional trade and investment promotion agency focused on building a resilient Caribbean by providing cutting-edge and high-impact support to the private sector. It contributes towards the creation of jobs, transformation of the Caribbean economies through working closely with businesses to increase exports and attract investment.

About BID Lab

BID Lab is the innovation laboratory of the Inter-American Investment Bank aimed at promoting early-stage entrepreneurial innovations in the region. It is the leading source of development finance and expertise for improving lives in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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