



European  
Commission

## EU-CELAC<sup>1</sup> 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.

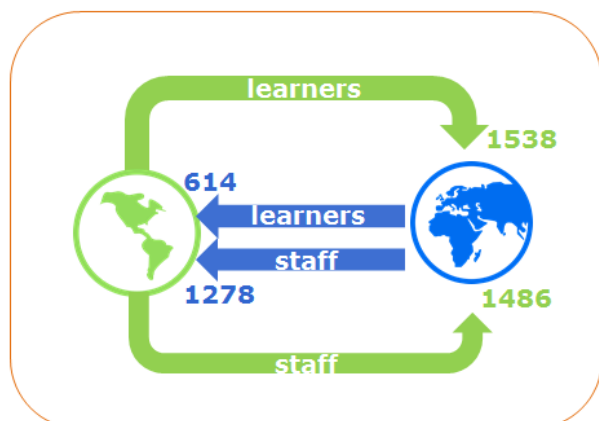
### Student and staff mobility, 2015-2017

In 2017 we celebrated 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.

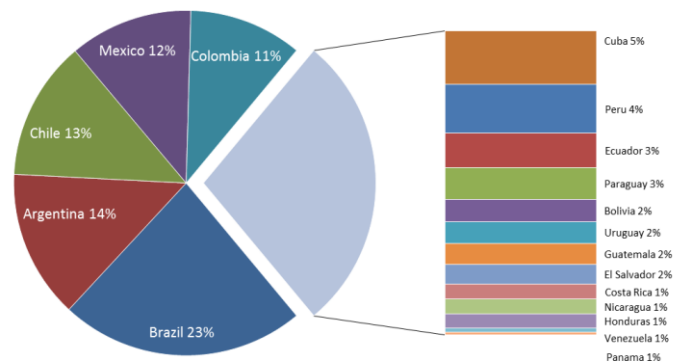
The budget for Latin America makes up **almost 5% of the entire ICM budget** and so far has allowed establishing 523 projects for bilateral partnerships that organise **mobility for over 4500 students, researchers, and staff**.

**Erasmus+ student and staff mobility between Europe and LAC countries: 547 projects, some 5000 people moving**



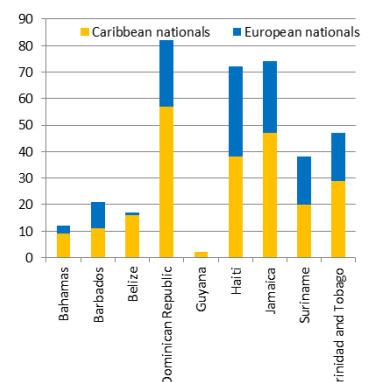
The Freie Universität Berlin manages an international mobility project with countries in Latin America, including the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Under this partnership, three students and four staff will travel to study, teach or train in Germany. Additionally, one researcher and three staff members 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 benefits 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](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.

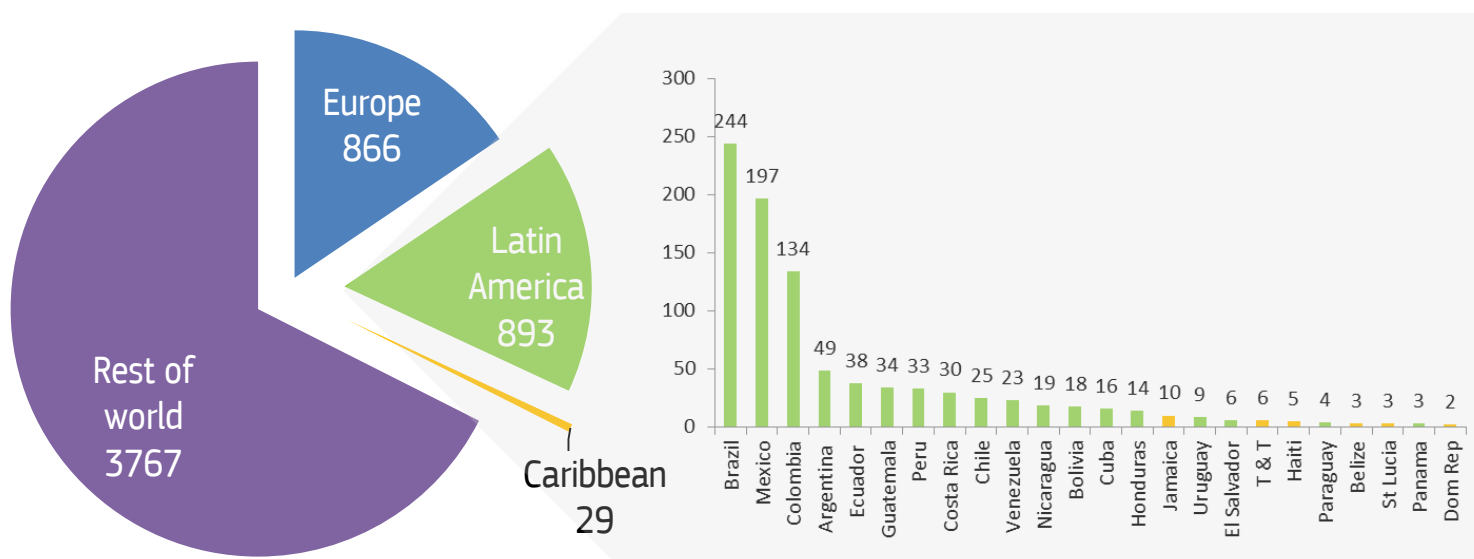
### Latin American partners

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.

### Erasmus Mundus and LAC, 2014-2017



925 scholarships for LAC nationals



91 organisations from LAC countries involved

### IDOH: Infectious Diseases and One Health

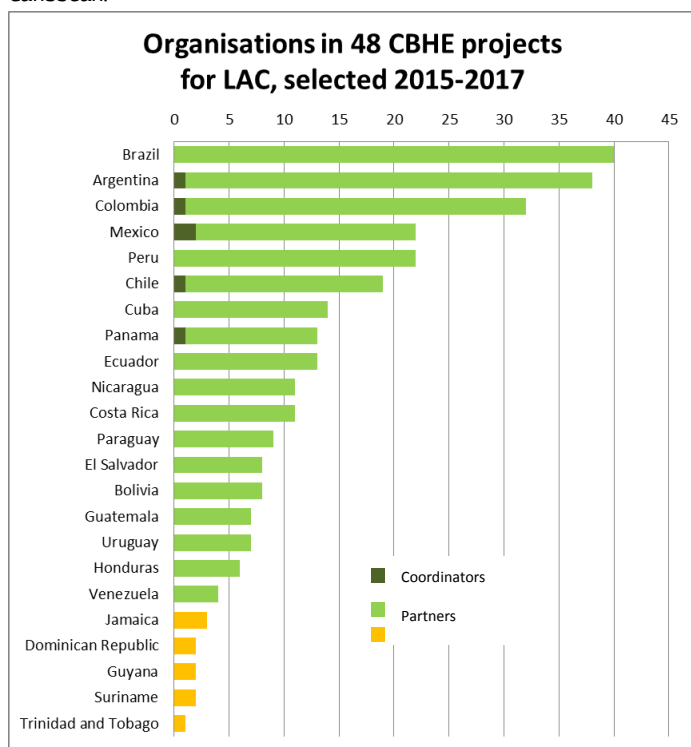
This Master Degree programme involves a partnership of some of Europe's leading research-intensive universities in the field of infectious diseases. The consortium aims to offer innovative postgraduate courses in infectious diseases, emphasising the three aspects of the one health concept: humans, animals, 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:



### CITYLAB CAR

This project develops curriculum modules to develop skills in tackling a range of urban challenges faced by Caribbean cities. The project introduces using problem-based learning techniques and often crosses traditional disciplinary borders. It involves cooperation with urban actors and provides the opportunity to structurally strengthen the relationship between the higher education institutes and several public and civil society organizations. Higher education organisations from five Caribbean and five European countries will work together on this project which kicks off in late 2017.

## Capacity-building projects 2014-2017



48 projects



294 organisations

from LAC countries involved

### Enhancing and implementing the regional quality framework (HICA)

This structural project is contributing to the harmonisation of Central American higher education systems by developing and implementing a regional qualifications framework, defining learning outcomes for pre-bachelor programmes as well as the credits required for the different higher education cycles. The pilot outcomes and the framework itself will be widely promoted to regional and national bodies, employers and accreditation agencies.

### 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.

### "PRESET" PARTICIPATION, RESILIENZ AND EMPLOYABILITY THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND TRAINING

#### Latin American Partners: Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia

Climate change presents itself as a crisis that faces all societies. The "PRESET" Capacity Building in the Field of Youth project takes this issue, along with another pertinent issue, youth unemployment, and combines them into something positive. Through training, seminars, exchanges, and job shadowing, youth from Europe and Latin America are encouraged to come together, brainstorm, and create entrepreneurial solutions to some of the world's greatest crises – and opportunities!

## Youth Capacity Building projects for LAC countries, 2014-2017



**141 projects**



**93 organisations**

from LAC countries involved

### YOUTH ORGANIC FARMERS CLUB

#### James Eliah, Antigua and Barbuda

Considering the overwhelming positive environmental and social effects of organic farming, the Youth Organic Farmers Club encourages dialogue between European countries familiar with organic farming and countries outside of Europe interested in organic farming. More specifically, the project aims to educate and train a generation of youth in the very subject areas of organic farming, organic food production, and fair trade practices.

### DIVE IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

#### Associação de Idéias Ambientais e Ações Sócio Culturais, Brazil

This Capacity Building project in the Field of Youth focuses on developing human capital through the encouragement of entrepreneurial initiatives and activities by youth. In particular, the project aims to influence and encourage youth leaders, youth workers, programme managers, project coordinators, representatives of institutions, and local authorities through seminars and mentorship programmes.

## 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](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/international-cooperation/latin-america_en)

Erasmus+ website: [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node\\_en](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](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](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](http://www.em-a.eu)

Study in Europe: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/>

<sup>1</sup> Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in English).