



**EU-LAC Foundation
Fundación EU-LAC**

III EU-LAC Essay Contest on the Bi-Regional Partnership

2022

Information to applicants



1. Introduction

The partnership between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean is based on close historical and cultural ties and shared values and aspirations, such as a commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law, the search of sustainable development for a prosperous, inclusive society committed to respecting the environment and fighting against climate change. Over the years, the two regions have progressively built a relationship based on mutual respect and open dialogue. As a result, a bi-regional strategic partnership was established in 1999, providing a consensual and dynamic framework for political dialogue and cooperation in specific areas of mutual interest.

Consequently, by decision of the Heads of State and Government in 2010, the EU-LAC Foundation was established and since 2011 has been operating in the city of Hamburg, as an instrument to promote this bi-regional partnership. Composed of 27 countries from the European Union, 33 from Latin America and the Caribbean, plus the European Union itself, for a total of 61 members, the Foundation became an International Organisation in May 2019, with the entry into force of its Constitutive Agreement.

In this sense, the Foundation has two fundamental purposes:

- a. To contribute to the strengthening of the bi-regional partnership process between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, involving the participation and inputs from civil society and other social actors.
- b. To promote mutual knowledge and improve the visibility of the bi-regional partnership.

In response to this mandate, and also recognising the potential of the bi-regional dialogue between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, the EU-LAC Foundation launches the following call for the Third **EU-LAC Essay Contest** on global and/or sectorial issues concerning the bi-regional partnership. The awarding of prizes to the essays is provided, in particular, with the support of grants from the European Union and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. Theme of the Essay Contest

The main purpose of the EU-LAC Essay Contest is to encourage the writing of essays on topics of relevance to the bi-regional partnership, and, in particular, analytical papers aimed at increasing mutual understanding and offering pertinent ideas on the strengthening of cooperation between both regions.

The essays submitted for the 2022 edition of the EU-LAC Essay Contest should focus on the future of education and the opportunities for bi-regional cooperation to advance in an inclusive, quality-based and sustainable transformation of the education sector.

Education, at all levels, is a human right and the basis for the realisation of other rights. By creating a more level playing field for people of all ages to acquire the skills required to access labour



markets and to address pressing challenges of our times, education can reduce some of the main sources for inequalities that characterise our societies and convert into a key factor for social cohesion, socio-economic growth and sustainable development.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on educative systems in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the European Union (EU). The virus implied severe disruptions in education trajectories across primary, secondary and tertiary education, vocational training and life-long learning programmes alike and led to lower learning outcomes and a greater drop-out rates. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds have been disproportionately affected by the impacts of the pandemic and their chances to upward social mobility and to succeed in highly dynamic social, economic and environmental contexts were hampered or reduced.

At the same time, education systems are not only exposed to the challenge of recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also of finding ways to generate long-term structural transformations for inclusive and future-proof learning and teaching, taking into account the rapid technological transformation, profound changes in the world of work, consequences of climate change and the need to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In short, education systems in our regions are in urgent need to deliver the knowledge, skills and competences needed for children, young people and adults to excel in today's world and to contribute to sustainable, healthy and peaceful futures of our societies, and the present edition of the EU-LAC Essay Contest aims to take this shared challenge as a starting point for bi-regional debate and reflection.

The following are some questions that could be used as guidelines for editing the essays:

- *How can the education sector be transformed for the benefit of all citizens in EU and LAC countries, ensuring equal access and quality of education, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, in line with SDG 4?*
- *What can be done to advance green and digital transformations in the education sector of LAC and EU countries and regions?*
- *What policies and good practices in this regard have been developed in LAC and EU countries and regions recently, from which important models and lessons learned could be derived?*
- *What programmes, initiatives and cooperation mechanisms between LAC and the EU should be developed or strengthened in order to jointly advance in the sustainable transformation of the education sector?*



For the purposes of this call, a broad concept of education is conceived, including all levels, from primary education, secondary education, technical/vocational training, higher education, and life-long learning.

3. Awards

The three best essays with the highest scores according to the evaluation committee will be awarded. The award will consist of a monetary prize and the publication of the essay, including the acquisition of the rights for that purpose. The award will be a face-to-face ceremony that will be duly announced.

The Foundation will cover the transportation, lodging and travel expenses for the winner's participation in the award ceremony.

The essay that takes first place will be awarded a prize of 2,500 euros (two thousand five hundred euros) as an advance on publication rights.

The essay in second place will be awarded a prize of 1,500 euros (one thousand five hundred euros) as an advance on publication rights.

The essay that takes third place will be awarded a prize of 1,000 euros (one thousand euros) as an advance on publication rights.

The EU-LAC Foundation reserves the right to propose to authors whose essays are not among the three prize-winning essays, but who have nevertheless been rated as very good by the evaluation committee, to include their essays in the subsequent publication.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be citizens of one of the 60 member countries of the EU-LAC Foundation.

The Foundation particularly encourages young authors (up to 35 years of age) to submit an essay under this call.

Each applicant may not submit more than one (1) essay to this contest.

Individual or collective authorship of essays with no more than two authors will be accepted. In the case of collective essays, the prize will be unique for each work.

Staff members, interns, consultants, former staff members and former consultants of the EU-LAC Foundation are not eligible to participate in this competition. Winners of the previous edition are also ineligible to participate.

The essay must:

- be rigorously unpublished, that is to say, it must not have been previously published in any type



of media or communication, nor have it won any other prize in any other contest;

- be written in Spanish or English;
- provide for a title;
- include an executive summary of max. 200 words;
- contain between 5,000 and 7,000 words, including bibliography, notes, tables, graphs;
- not contain attachments;
- adhere to the Chicago Deusto Manual regarding the inclusion of references and quotations;
- be written in Candara font, size 11 and with normal margin (2.5 cm for the top and bottom margins and 3 cm to the left and right); that is, a Word pattern. The space between the lines must be 1.5;
- be submitted in PDF format.

To guarantee the integrity of the anonymous evaluation process, **authors should not include in the essay document any indication of authorship** (names, e-mail, institutional affiliation, etc.). This information will only be provided through the registration form.

5. Dates

The deadline for submission of essays is **13 November 2022 23:59 (CEST)**. Each author may submit only one essay. Essays received within this deadline and that meet the requirements will be considered for the contest.

Essays should be sent together with the registration form to the following e-mail address: call@eulacfoundation.org indicating in the subject line: "**III EU-LAC Essay Contest**".

The results of the competition will be communicated on **9 December 2022** on the EU-LAC Foundation's website and its social networks.

The best essays will be published and promoted through the communication channels of the EU-LAC Foundation.

6. Evaluation Criteria

A jury composed of the EU-LAC Foundation and independent international experts will evaluate the essays.

The members of the jury will evaluate the works considering criteria such as:

- Originality and contribution of the content to the state of the art on the topic
- Substantiation, clarity and sufficiency of the issue statement, the main arguments and the evidence presented



- Adequate and coherent structure of the content
- Quality of writing (style, spelling, etc.)
- Compliance with technical specifications (see 4. Eligibility criteria).

At the time of evaluation, the jury will only receive the content of the essays, and no reference to the author of the essay, to ensure transparency at this stage.

Essays sent after the deadline, and in general, those that do not meet the conditions expressed in the terms of reference, will not be accepted in the contest.

7. Registration Form

To ensure the integrity of anonymous evaluations, authors should not include any indication of authorship (names, email, university) in the essay document. This information will only be provided through the registration form.

The EU-LAC Foundation undertakes to keep all personal data strictly confidential and to respect the European Union regulations governing the protection of citizens' data (GDPR).

For their part, the applicant commits, through the declaration of honour included in the application form, to guarantee the originality of the text.

8. Publication of the Essays

The winners will be notified once the Jury Committee has made its decision. The decision of the Committee is final and binding. The EU-LAC Foundation expects to reach the final decision about four weeks after the closing date of the Call.

The winners will grant the EU-LAC Foundation the right to publish the original works, but they may subsequently be published in any other media, provided that the original publication and the framework of this Call are cited.

The views and content of the essays published in the framework of the contest are the responsibility of the authors and do not reflect the views of the EU-LAC Foundation, the European Union, or any of the Member States of the Foundation.

