



A new digital data highway brings Europe and Latin America closer than ever.

It marks a turning point in the relationship between the two regions by facilitating digital transformation and making unprecedented opportunities possible.

EllaLink is a transatlantic cable, co-funded by the EU through the BELLA Programme, that enables **high-capacity and secure connectivity** between Europe and Latin America



The BELLA Programme is co-funded by the European Union

The **BELLA Programme** celebrates the inauguration of the EllaLink transatlantic cable. This major milestone will help transform European and Latin American research and education collaboration for the next 25 years, enhancing digital and data connectivity and promoting digital inclusion.

For the first time, a transatlantic cable capable of supporting research and education collaboration links the European Union and Latin America through a direct, high-capacity data connection. This was first put on the agenda at the 7th EU – Brazil High-Level Summit held in February 2014 and was reiterated at the summit between the EU and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), where heads of state decided to close the gap and gave political support to digitally connect the two regions.

On Digital Day 2021, 27 European countries committed to reinforcing internet connectivity between Europe and its partners around the world by signing the Declaration on “European Data Gateways as a key element of the EU’s Digital Decade”.

The operationalisation of the EllaLink cable delivers on the political promise of a digital bridge between Europe and Latin America and inspires EU and Latin American excellence in private and public research, innovation and education institutions. The arrival of the EllaLink cable in Brazil, EU’s strategic partner, is a symbolic milestone that marks the foundation of the strong international digital partnerships set out in Europe’s Digital Decade targets.



* Capacity after operationalisation of the new EllaLink cable: **additional 72 Tbps**

Capacity of the current GÉANT-RedCLARA link: **10 Gbps**

This new link will **reduce latency by 50%** compared to the current infrastructure, reaching a real value of approximately **60 ms** between Portugal and Brazil.

** Study to Monitor Connectivity. Final Study Report. CNECT/2020/LVP/0087.*

BELLA will reach 65 million users across more than 12,000 institutions in Europe and Latin America.

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To bring the EllaLink cable to life, a public-private partnership of stakeholders on both sides of the Atlantic was established. The BELLA Programme was formed to secure capacity on the EllaLink cable for the benefit of research and education collaborations between the two regions, and is delivered by the regional networks RedCLARA and GÉANT and 11 European and Latin American research and education networks from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

The EU co-funds the BELLA Programme, deploying so far €26.5 million to provide support for the long-term interconnectivity needs of the European and Latin American research and education communities. Co-funding for BELLA is also provided by Latin American National Research and Education Networks (NREN) and the Brazilian government.

The BELLA Programme consists of two components - the BELLA-S and BELLA-T projects - that provide ultra-high-capacity submarine and terrestrial connectivity between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) regions. The two components of the Programme will allow better access, inter alia, to data amongst the EU and Latin America research and education communities whilst ensuring that capacity is evenly distributed across Latin America and enabling synergies between the EU and the LAC NRENs.

BELLA therefore signals a turning point in the relationship between the EU and the LAC regions. The official inauguration of the EllaLink cable on the 1st of June 2021 at the Digital Assembly event will showcase a new opportunity for more LAC countries to engage with this initiative.

BELLA is the result of an international cooperation effort that includes the continuous contribution of governments, public bodies and companies from the EU and partner countries in Latin America.

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