5th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI 2025

Call Text

Proposal Submission Deadline
22nd May 2025, 5:00 pm CEST

Background

The **EU-LAC Interest Group** was founded in March 2017 in order to maintain the very active bi-regional network built by the EC-funded ERANet-LAC project (2013-2017). It consists of 29 funding agencies from both regions wishing to cooperate in bi-regional science, technology and innovation (STI). The activities aim to support the implementation of the Common EU-LAC Research Area and to add value to its four pillars: mobility of researchers, increased thematic cooperation to address global challenges, international outreach of research infrastructures and innovation. So far, the EU-LAC Interest Group successfully organised four Joint Calls.

The **goal of the 5th EU-LAC Joint Call** is to continue creating a sustainable and multilateral long-term collaboration between EU Member States and/or Associated Countries, Latin-American and Caribbean countries by funding transnational research and innovation projects for a period of up to 36 months in the following topics:

Topic 1	Biodiversity incl. Agriculture and Food Security
Topic 2	Bioeconomy and Nature-based Solutions
Topic 3.1	Global health
Topic 3.2	Infectious diseases
Topic 4	EU-LAC Cooperation for energy transition
Topic 5	EU-LAC Cooperation in Open Science

Call website: 5th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI 2025 | EU-CELAC
Partner search tool: ENRICH in LAC Matchmaking platform
Proposal submission platform: https://ptoutline.eu/app/5eulac_call2025

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1. Design of the EU-LAC Joint Calls

Each participating funding institution applies its own national or regional funding regulations, which must be reviewed before submitting a proposal. Only researchers based in the participating countries are eligible for funding, and only for those topics supported by their funding agency, check table in chapter 3.

Applicants are strongly advised to:

- **Contact their national or regional call contact person for guidance**, see Annex 1: Call secretariat and call contact persons.
- **Check the national or regional regulations** of their respective funding organisations before submitting the proposal: 5th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI 2025 | EU-CELAC

2. Composition of consortia

Applicants can represent public and private scientific, research, technological and innovation institutions on national, federal or EU-LAC regional level, research active industry, non-governmental organisations and other institutions involved in research activities.

Criteria: Each consortium submitting a proposal must involve a **minimum of four eligible partners from four different participating countries with at least two countries from each region** (EU and LAC). A maximum number of national partners applying for funding will be defined in the institutional rules of each funding organisation. Only transnational projects will be funded. Each collaborative consortium should have the optimal critical mass to achieve ambitious scientific and/or innovation goals and should clearly show an added value from working together. **The coordinator must be eligible** for the funding agencies participating in this call.

Partners not eligible for funding/not from the participating countries may also be part of the consortia if they are able to clearly demonstrate an added value to the consortium and secure their own funding. The self-financed partners must provide the call secretariat with a **signed official letter of support** from their head of department or financial director. A pdf-version of this letter must be included as an annex at the end of the proposal before submitting. Self-financed partners cannot assume the role of coordinator of the consortium.

There should be a **principal investigator (PI)** for each of the national research groups. Each PI will act as contact person for his or her national funders. One of these PIs should be selected through the project consortium as coordinator to represent the consortium, submit the proposal, and establish any further communication with the call secretariat. A coordinator must not submit more than one proposal. However, one research institution – as a legal entity – is allowed to participate as a coordinator or partner in several project proposals.

Finding partners: The call secretariat supports the identification of partner institutions in Latin America/Caribbean and Europe through the partner search tool: ENRICH in LAC Matchmaking platform.

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3. Overview of participating countries, funding organisations and call topics

Legend: **Yes** = The respective funding agency is funding the indicated topic.
No = No funding allocated to this topic by the respective agency.

#	Country	Funding Agency	Topic 1 Biodiversity incl. Agriculture and Food Security	Topic 2 Bioeconomy and Nature-based Solutions	Topic 3.1 Global health	Topic 3.2 Infectious diseases	Topic 4 EU-LAC Cooperation for energy transition	Topic 5 EU-LAC Cooperation in Open Science	Total available funding budget in EURO
1	Argentina	SICYT	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no	to be defined[1]
2	Austria	BMBWF	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	500,000[2]
3	Brazil	CNPq	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	200,000[2]
4	Brazil	CONFAP	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	to be defined[3]
5	Dom. Rep.	MESCYT	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	200,000
6	Germany	BMBF	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	1,000,000
7	Peru	CONCYTEC	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	600,000
8	Poland	NCBR	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	1,500,000
9	Portugal	FCT	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	300,000
10	Spain	AEI	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	400,000
11	Spain	ISCIII	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	750,000
12	Türkiye	TÜBITAK	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	500,000
13	Uruguay	ANII	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	95,000

[1] The available budget for project funding will be defined by each Argentinian institution participating in one of the mentioned topics.
[2] The decision is provisional.
[3] The budget for each participating State Funding Agency (FAP) is detailed in the funding regulations of CONFAP under: 5th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI 2025 | EU-CELAC

4. Consortium agreement

Each consortium selected for funding must provide a Consortium Agreement (CA), signed by all participants, to clarify the potential Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) matters (such as licensing in, licensing out, patent and exploitation strategy) and send it to the call secretariat (UEcelac@fecyt.es) within 3 months following the official project start date (except for projects involving polish partners, see footnote[4]). Upon request, the CA must be made available to the concerned funding organisations.

The **Consortium Agreement must address the following points** as a minimum:

- Common start date and duration of the research and/or innovation project
- Organisation and management of the project
- Role and responsibilities of each partner
- Confidentiality and publishing
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Decision making within the consortium
- Handling of internal disputes
- The liabilities of the research partners towards one another, including the handling of default of contract.

Any issues regarding funding are a bilateral matter between each project partner and the relevant funding organisation and should be excluded from the CA. The CA, together with any other information required by national regulations, must be made available upon request to the national funding agencies.

Templates for standard documents that can be modified according to the needs of the consortium: https://www.desca-agreement.eu/desca-model-consortium-agreement. Further instructions will be provided by the call secretariat to the coordinators of the projects selected for funding.

5. Allowable costs and duration of funding

Funding will be managed according to the rules of the respective funding organisations, so the eligible costs may differ for each partner within a project consortium. Applicants are strongly advised to review the national funding rules and/or contact their national call contact person for guidance. Projects may have a **maximum duration of 36 months**.

6. Call budget and funding principle

Project partners are funded in accordance with their national and regional funding regulations. All funded projects must have passed the international evaluation and ranking proceedings as specified below.

The overall budget of this Joint Call is the sum of the individual budgets allocated by each participating funding institution. If more than one funding institution from a given country

[4] Polish project partners need to send the signed Consortium Agreement to their funding agency before signing the grant agreement.

participates in the Joint Call, the added amount of all institutions from this country is considered as the country's overall Joint Call contribution.

Some funding institutions may decide to set an **upper limit for the budget that can be requested per project** from the national funding agency. The upper funding limits may thus vary from one country to the other**.**

7. Proposal submission

Project proposals must be submitted by transnational consortia electronically using the PT-Outline webtool from DLR: https://ptoutline.eu/app/5eulac_call2025. All proposals must be written in English. The only currency to be applied in the proposal is EURO.

The coordinator should fill in the application from on behalf of the whole consortium and submit the proposal: Only one online proposal per project is needed. The coordinator must confirm that the proposal is endorsed by all project partners by clicking the relevant box in the PT-Outline webtool. It is not required to send a printed version of the proposal to the call secretariat. However, this may be required by some national funding agencies (see respective national regulations).

The project proposal consists of two parts:

a) **Online submission form**: This form has to be filled in online by the coordinator at the PT-Outline webtool. It consists of an overview followed by four pages, each one requiring different information (general project information, data of the project coordinator and partners, project summary). CVs, commitment letters of project partners participating with own funds, as well as letters of support can also be uploaded here, before checking and submitting the proposal.

b) **Proposal application form**: This form has to be filled in offline by the project coordinator and uploaded at the PT-Outline webtool before final submission of the proposal. It contains the general project data, details on the project consortium, the project description and financial plan. Available for download at https://www.eucelac-platform.eu/joint-actions/calls/5th-eu-lac-joint-call-sti-2025, along with the guideline for applicants.

Some funding organisations may ask the applicant to submit a parallel proposal to the funding organisation **in line with the national or regional requirements**. This can be done once the joint proposal has been submitted to the call secretariat or after the joint proposal has been evaluated. For further details about each funding organisation's requirements with regard to proposal submission, please check the respective national/regional funding rules.

8. Proposal evaluation and funding decision

8.1 Evaluation Procedure

1) **Eligibility check**: Performed by the call secretariat in cooperation with the representatives of the national funding agencies. In addition, the Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC) will check the eligibility considering the matching of the proposals in the scope of the topic:
    a. The call secretariat will inform the group of funding parties about the results, providing the rationale for non-eligibility of individual proposals (if relevant) and ask the representatives of the funding agencies to check and confirm the eligibility of applicants from their country, according to their national regulations.
    b. Each funding party will then confirm the list of eligible proposals from its national applicants to the call secretariat.

2) **External written peer review**: Remotely by at least two experts covering the specific fields of the research topic addressed. Each evaluator fills in an individual evaluation form whereby s/he assigns a score to each evaluation item. The evaluator also assesses the alignment of the proposal with the objectives and scope of the call.
3) **Ranking of proposals:** The funding recommendations will be elaborated by the SECs in a consensus meeting, based on the external evaluation results. The meeting will be organised by the call secretariat. Each SEC will consist of at least three thematic experts.
4) **Selection of the proposals recommended for funding**: To be done by the group of funding parties in the final funding decision, taking into account the evaluations and the budget allocated, and all applicable national regulations.
5) The **SECs will formulate a short report for each proposal** that will be forwarded upon request to the coordinators of the proposals after the evaluation and decision taken by the group of funding parties.

The group of funding parties' decisions regarding the eligibility of proposals are final.

8.2 Eligibility check and eligible beneficiaries

Applicants are strongly advised to contact their national call contact persons in due time before submission to check their national eligibility. The list of call contact points is provided in Annex 1 and also in the national funding regulations of each funding agency.

A proposal must:

- Conform to the scope and the thematic focus of the call as described in the detailed formulation of research topics;
- Meet the consortium composition requirements;
- Comply with the maximum allowed duration;
- Comply with the funding principle as specified (as well as national funding regulations);
- Comply with the terms of the submission procedure;

- Be complete according to the rules and in line with the required proposal structure described in the guidelines for applicants;
- Be submitted in English;
- Be submitted electronically using DLR's PT-Outline webtool;
- Meet the submission deadline.

Only proposals meeting all the above-mentioned eligibility criteria will be processed by the call secretariat. **The applicants will be informed by the call secretariat.**

8.3 Evaluation criteria

The evaluation procedure will be done according to the criteria defined below:

1. **Excellence**

- Clarity and pertinence of the objectives;
- Credibility of the proposed approach;
- Integration of diversity considerations in submitted proposals, as well as underrepresented populations in the planned research and/or innovation. This includes not only diversity in the consortium, but also the inclusion of diversity perspectives and analysis in the research and/or innovation itself, if relevant. A project is considered diversity (or gender) relevant when it concerns individuals or specific groups of people and/or when its findings may affect individuals or specific groups.
- Soundness of the concept, including trans-disciplinary considerations, where relevant;
- Extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches).

2. **Impact**

- Expected impacts listed in the description under the relevant topic;
- Enhancing research and innovation capacity and integration of new knowledge;
- Any other environmental and socially important impacts;
- Implementation of open science measures (early and open sharing of research; research output management; providing open access to research outputs i.e. publications, data, software, algorithms, etc.), participation in open peer review; involvement of relevant actors including citizens, civil society and end users in the co-creation of research and innovation contents and agendas;
- Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), to communicate the project and to manage research data where relevant;
- Added value for the EU-LAC cooperation in STI;
- Mobility, networking and training of human resources in both regions.

3. **Quality and efficiency of the implementation**

- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources;
- Complementarity of the participants within the consortium (if relevant) and gender

balance among them;
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management.

4. **Economic impact, applicability and exploitation of results**

- Potential for economic impact and exploitation/transfer of results;
- In case of industry and SME participation: Strengthening competitiveness and growth of companies by developing innovations that meet the needs of global markets and, where relevant, deliver such innovations to the market;
- Feasibility;
- Involvement of stakeholders;
- Communication and dissemination of results;
- Exploitation and transfer of results;
- Management of intellectual property issues and consortium agreements.

8.4 Rating scores

The evaluators are requested to assess proposals against a set of criteria, each of which may be awarded a maximum of 5 points per criterion, 20 points maximum, according to the following scale:

EXCELLENT = 5 points The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.
VERY GOOD = 4 points The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
GOOD = 3 points The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
FAIR = 2 points The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
POOR = 1 point The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
0 points The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

A threshold of three out of five will be applied for each criterion. Proposals with an average score below 3.0 in any criterion will not be recommended for funding.

8.5 Funding organisations' meeting

The group of funding parties will take the final decision on the proposals recommended for funding on a consensus basis, **based on the recommendations of the scientific evaluation committees**. It will discuss and approve the recommended projects according to the ranking list and available budget.

The formal funding decisions are taken by the national funding organisations. The funding will be administered according to the terms and conditions of the participating national and regional funding institutions.

9. Funding contract

Within one month after the funding decision **the call secretariat will inform all applicants about the evaluation results** and the next steps to be taken. From then on, the national phase will start in each participating country or region. The project partners of each proposal to be funded will conclude an individual funding contract with their respective national or regional funding institution. This may mean that partners of a successful proposal will have to submit an additional application to their national or regional funding institution to receive their funding.

10. Project implementation and reporting

Funded consortiums must sign a **Consortium Agreement** listing the rights and responsibilities of each project partner. Depending on the nature of the project, special regulations should be included regarding IPR. Scientific and technological results and any other information derived from the project can be announced, published or commercially exploited with the agreement of the project partners and according to the national/regional regulations as well as international agreements concerning IPR.

The **following regulations will apply to all projects funded** under this call:

- In any publication of results, mention must be made that the project was realised within the framework of the EU-LAC Interest Group. The EU-LAC Interest Group logo and the internet address https://www.eucelac-platform.eu should also be shown in the publication.
- Funding recipients must ensure that all project outcomes (e.g., publications) properly acknowledge the EU-LAC Interest Group and the respective national or regional funding organisations.

The coordinators of the funded projects will be requested to send the Consortium Agreement to the EU-LAC call secretariat within 3 months following the official project start date, except for projects involving polish partners, see footnote[5].

Individual reporting to the national or regional funding institutions might be necessary depending on national or regional regulations.

The progress and final results of each individual contract/letter of grant will be monitored by the respective national or regional funding organisations.

[5] Polish project partners need to send the signed Consortium Agreement to their funding agency before signing the grant agreement.

11.Time schedule

DATE in 2025	ACTION
17 Feb	Pre-announcement of 5th EU-LAC Joint Call in STI
24 Feb	Launch of the 5th Joint Call
22 May 5 pm CEST	Closure of the 5th Joint Call
23 May – 20 June	International and national eligibility check
23 June – 15 Aug	Evaluation of proposals based on the evaluation guidelines
18 Aug – 05 Sep	Scientific Evaluation Committee meeting and ranking list
08 – 19 Sep	Funding agencies confirm projects´ funding according to ranking list
22 – 30 Sept	Information to applicants about the results of the evaluation
01 Oct – 31 Dec	Preparation of national/regional funding contracts/funding decisions
Dec 2025 - Feb 2026	Start of funded projects, max. duration 36 months

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Annex 1: Call secretariat and call contact persons

The **call secretariat** is responsible for the overall operational management of this Joint Call and serves as the primary contact point for questions regarding the call, the application process, and the use of the PT Outline web tool.

Call contact persons are available in each country participating in this Joint Call. They provide guidance to potential applicants from their respective countries or regions on the applicable national or regional regulations during the proposal submission process.

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