



FORO ACADÉMICO PERMANENTE ALC-UE
FORUM ACADÉMICO PERMANENTE ALC-UE
FORUM ACADÉMIQUE PERMANENT UE-ALC
EU-LAC ACADEMIC PERMANENT FORUM

PERMANENT ACADEMIC FORUM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN - EUROPEAN UNION (FAP ALC-UE)

IV LAC-EU ACADEMIC SUMMIT

Bucharest, November 10-12 of 2022



DECLARATION OF BUCHAREST ON THE CREATION OF A EURO-LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COMMON AREA OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The rectors, deans, directors, professors, researchers and graduates of universities, academic and research centers, and representatives of academic networks from Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, reunited at the IV LAC-EU Academic Summit by the Permanent Academic Forum Latin America and the Caribbean - European Union (FAP ALC-UE), in Bucharest, Romania on November 10th, 11th, and 12th, at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA):

I.- CELEBRATE the 10th anniversary of the creation and constant activity of the Permanent Academic Forum Latin America and the Caribbean - European Union (FAP ALC-UE) through seminars, conferences, publications, and Academic Summits, bringing together the academic community of both regions to promote the EURO-LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COMMON AREA OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION.

II.- RECOGNIZE the commitment, work, and support of all universities, institutes, national and multilateral authorities, university networks and associations from both regions, and integration organizations, who during these ten years have helped

to make progress towards this goal. In particular, that of the National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA), University of Alcala, Miguel de Cervantes University, Central University of Chile, Institute of the Americas of France, IRELAC, CELARE, Lisbon Institute, College of Engineers of Peru, University of Guadalajara, Stockholm University, University of Salamanca, Private Technical University of Loja, Tor Vergata University of Rome, Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI), ECLAC, EuroLat Assembly, EU-LAC Foundation, European Commission, and that of the more than 2.000 academics who have participated in the different activities carried out by the Forum.

III.- CONSIDER that the current global landscape, and in particular the challenges faced by both Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, in regard to climate change, digital, environmental, and energy transition, security, democracy, and other strategic and existential threats, place education, and higher education in particular, as a fundamental pillar for the construction of a new safer, more peaceful, economically, socially and environmentally sustainable international order, within the framework of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, the UNESCO initiative on the future of education, and "Our Common Agenda" of the United Nations.

IV.- BELIEVE in the need to strengthen and project the Strategic Partnership between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean towards a common future, based on the historical ties that unite us, the shared interests, the common challenges of the present, and on the willingness to jointly contribute to the construction of a future of peace, development, and cooperation for humanity, as it has been expressed in the Summits of bi-regional heads of state and government held so far.

V.- TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

- The consequences of the pandemic and its impact on education
- The new realities of the internationalization of universities and academic globalization emerged because of the pandemic
- The conclusions of the seminars and of the Academic Summits carried out by FAP
- The Córdoba Commitment, approved by the bi-regional academic community during the III ALC-UE Summit held at the University of Córdoba, Argentina
- The EU-CELAC Action Plan, especially the key area 9, regarding higher education
- The statements of the LAC and EU ministers
- The conclusions of each working group gathered during this IV ALC-UE Academic Summit, to contribute to structuring the FAP ALC-UE proposal to the Vth ALC-UE Academic Summit, which are expressed below:

HIGHER EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL TRAINING:

- ✓ Promote the mobility of students, academics, and administrative staff at a tri-regional level with the aim of strengthening the integration of higher education institutions.
- ✓ In the field of quality assurance, move towards a common accreditation system with parameters and quality indicators that allow the recognition of transferable credits, professional titles, and academic degrees.

- ✓ Generate seminars and meetings with accreditation agencies from the three regions to reach agreements to make the quality assurance of our institutions viable.
- ✓ Promote the enhancement of multilingualism for the research products.
- ✓ Move towards a multimodal higher education institution by amassing the experience we had with the pandemic.
- ✓ Develop programs with the aim of addressing issues related to mental health in the communities.
- ✓ Improve the interrelation between professional technical training and university education.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION:

It is understood that science, technology, and innovation contribute in a systemic and comprehensive way to the sustainable development of the biregional LAC-EU integration, in a transversal way to the substantial processes of teaching and learning, research, and links with social responsibility. The strategic sustainable development of science, technology, and innovation, either in the intra-institutional, national, inter-institutional or supranational framework, is a determining factor for the global competitiveness of the LAC-EU region.

The commitment of higher education institutions to knowledge management is not limited to generating patents, but to changing existing concepts, developing common spaces without borders, that are open, plural, and inclusive, and integrating for the co-creation of territorial solutions.

The pandemic has reinforced the need for the scientific community to join efforts in the field of health, to advance the levels of maturity of science, technology, and innovation systems, ecosystems, and habitats. Above all, through the mobility of intellectual capital for the social democratization of knowledge.

It is appropriate to address the issues raised by the integration and the links between these systems and the transfer of knowledge to society, especially the productive transformation from an equitable perspective, as proposed by the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. In this regard, there is a need for a common data platform to institutionalize the research networks, socialize successful experiences, share reference models, distribute talent, and a network that promotes the spirit of cooperation.

LINKS BETWEEN ACADEMIA, SOCIETY, AND PUBLIC POLICIES

The link between universities and the productive sectors is convergent. Within it, university experiences aimed at promoting university entrepreneurship based on institutional support policies are observed.

In this sense, important proposals for government policies that generate a very favourable context in support of the actions of universities with this aim are observed in LAC.

Universities should be encouraged to assume linkage strategies focused on the productive sectors, from the perspective of encouraging ventures to promote and consolidate productive developments based on the circular economy and on the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. In this sense, there is a need to promote the convening of an International Conference on Universities and Circular Economy by 2023.

GENDER POLICIES AND THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Universities, higher education institutions, and research centres are going through a process of reflection on their role in the 21st century. They seek to be more receptive and sensitive to social needs and to become agents of change that help solve global challenges.

Through their internal policies and actions, universities, higher education institutions, and research centres can make a significant contribution towards achieving gender equality in their spheres of action and, thereby, determine social changes in various areas of public policies.

To this end, gender policies and the integration of women in the academic environment must be transversal, inclusive, and connected to the various economic, political, and social contexts at the national, regional, supranational, or international level, which influence the emergence, maintenance, or reduction of structural gender inequalities, in order to determine progress in those societies.

VI.- BASED ON THE PRESENTATIONS, EXPERIENCES, ANALYSES, IDEAS, AND PROPOSALS OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY GATHERED IN BUCHAREST AROUND THE CENTRAL OBJECTIVE DURING THESE THREE DAYS OF WORK:

- We reiterate our common commitment to work in our countries of origin for the creation of the EURO-LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COMMON AREA OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION.
- We agree on the urgency of advancing towards the realization of this objective, urging the leaders of our countries and of the EU and CELAC to generate the political and institutional conditions for an **Academic Integration Agreement** between both regions.
- We believe it is important to assess the possibility of incorporating into this project the academic communities belonging to the other seventeen states of the European Political Community, recently created in Prague.
- We request the FAP ALC-UE Bi-regional Academic Council and its Executive Secretariat to prepare a concrete proposal on a LAC-EU Academic Integration Agreement to be presented at the V Academic Summit and later taken to the next Summit of Heads of State and the Government from both regions.

Finally, we express our gratitude to the members of the Organizing Committee, and particularly to the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration of Romania for their hospitality and for organizing the IV ALC-UE Academic Summit. Our special acknowledgment to Mr. Rector Remus Pricopie, to the President of the

University Senate, Iordan Bărbulescu, and to the entire team of the Institute of Latin American Studies.

We congratulate Dr. Rafael Rosell Aiquel, Rector of the Universidad del Alba, Chile, on his appointment by the FAP ALC-UE Bi-regional Academic Council as president of FAP ALC-UE for the next four years. And at the same time, we express our appreciation for the work carried out by Dr. Remus Pricopie, who has held the position of president of FAP ALC-UE during the period 2018-2022 and who will now be Honorary President together with Dr. Fernando Galván Reula, former rector of the University of Alcalá.

We thank the Rector and the Vice President for International Relations of the University of Alcalá for their offer to host the V ALC-UE Academic Summit to be held in Spain in 2023, within the framework of the Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Bucharest, 12th of November 2022