



# ENRICH

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF  
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
CENTRES AND HUBS,  
LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

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# ENRICH MONTHLY



**MONTHLY BUSINESS & INNOVATION  
NEWS COMPILED BY ENRICH IN LAC**



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## Country Profile: Chile



Chile; one of the EU's  
key, like-minded partner  
in Latin American and  
Caribbean (LAC) region

## Digital technologies for a new future



Productivity and Digital  
Transformation in LAC region:  
Insights of the ECLAC Report  
on Digital technologies  
for a new future.

## Foresight Training



Executive Training Course  
on Foresight and  
Technology Planning

Alameda Franca, 1050  
10o. andar, Jardins  
São Paulo - SP – Brazil  
<https://lac.enrichcentres.eu/contact-us/>



# EDITORIAL



Dear Reader,

a warm welcome and thank you for your time and interest in our October edition of the ENRICH Monthly. In each edition we provide you with the latest Science, Technology and Innovation related news from Europe, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Uruguay.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations founded with the purpose of contributing to the economic development of Latin America, coordinating actions directed towards this end, and reinforcing economic ties among countries and with other nations of the world, has recently published a report on Digital technologies for a new future. In this edition, we provide you with insights about the relation between digital transformation and productivity dynamics in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Chile is one of the EU's key like-minded partners in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region, with a well-established economy and democracy (European Commission). The World Factbook describes Chile as a market-oriented economy characterized by a high level of foreign trade and a reputation for strong financial institutions and sound policy that have given it the strongest sovereign bond rating in South America. Learn more about Chile's Economic, Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Landscape, National STI Priorities and Funding opportunities in Horizon Europe.

We hope you enjoy reading the 'ENRICH Monthly' and we are happy to receive your feedback via email!

All the best for you,  
ENRICH in LAC Team

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# LATEST NEWS

## LAC AND

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### EUROPEAN UNION



### EU-LAC Museums has won the prestigious ILUCIDARE special prize!

The ILUCIDARE Consortium, including Europa Nostra, and the European Commission confirm the winners of the 2021 edition of the ILUCIDARE Special Prizes; **EU-LAC Museums – Museums, Community & Sustainability in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean** – won the award for excellence in Heritage-led International Relations. **HAP4MARBLE – Marble Conservation by Hydroxyapatite** – won the award for excellence in Heritage-led Innovation.

Further details: [Ilucidare Special Prizes 2021](#)

### MEDICA Healthcare Brokerage Event 2021

On the occasion of MEDICA 2021 (15 – 18 November), the global No. 1 meeting place for the medical sector, **ZENIT GmbH together with the Healthcare Sector Group of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)** will organise an international Brokerage Event. **The Sector Group ICT and the Sector Group BioChemTech are supporting** the brokerage event. The aim is to assist enterprises, universities and research institutions in finding partners worldwide for product development, manufacturing and licensing agreements, distribution partnerships, research cooperation, joint ventures, financing/investment, public buyers or other types of partnership. Further details: [MEDICA Healthcare Brokerage Event 2021](#)  
Register until 14th November 2021.

### Europeans strongly support science and technology according to new Eurobarometer survey

A new Eurobarometer survey on 'European citizens' knowledge and attitudes towards science and technology' released today shows that 9 in 10 EU citizens (86%) think that the overall influence of science and technology is positive. They expect a range of technologies currently under development to have a positive effect on our way of life in the next 20 years: notably, solar energy (92%), vaccines and combatting infectious diseases (86%) and artificial intelligence (61%). Furthermore, results reveal a high level of interest in science and technology (82%) and a desire amongst citizens to learn more about it in places like town halls, museums and libraries (54%). Further details: [European Commission](#)

### Commission celebrate results of Horizon 2020 European Green Deal Call: 73 projects selected for €1 billion funding

At a dedicated event, the Commission celebrates the start of the 73 projects selected for funding under the Horizon 2020 European Green Deal Call worth €1 billion. This last call under Horizon 2020 represents a milestone on the road to achieving the European Green Deal objectives, contributing to the EU's response to the twin climate and biodiversity crises while accelerating a fair and sustainable recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

The European Green Deal is the Commission's blueprint and roadmap to make Europe the first climate neutral continent by 2050, with a sustainable economy that leaves no one behind. The Commission launched in 2020 the €1 billion Horizon 2020 call with a view to mobilise the European research and innovation community and contribute to this central priority of the Commission. Further details: [European Commission](#)

# LATEST NEWS

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### Argentina Federal Innovation Program strengthens with \$287.5 million

The Federal Innovation Program strengthens with \$287.5 million while the amount of \$230 million is granted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and \$57.5 million by the National Treasury. The investment will be granted for science, technology and innovation actions throughout the country for the next five years. The total investment consists of 100 million dollars that will be allocated to productive innovation (support SMEs and regional economies, technology centres); More than \$60 million to strengthen scientific capacities (creation of new consortia, technology-based enterprises); more than \$91 million for the expansion of infrastructure throughout the country, and finally, more than \$35 million for the institutional strengthening of the scientific and technological system (new inter-agency centres).

Further details: [Federal Innovation Program strengthens with \\$287.5 million](#)

## ARGENTINA



### Conicet reached an all-time record of more than 12,000 researchers

The National Council for Scientific and Technical Research incorporated 820 new researchers, with a federal criterion and reached more than 12000 researchers, which reached a historical record of scientists and technicians in the Career of Scientific and Technological Researcher. The researchers will be incorporated with a federal criterion taking into account that they are more linked to regional and local needs and favouring the provinces that have less presence of researchers and scientists.

Further details: [Conicet reached an all-time record of more than 12,000 researchers](#)

### Tecnópolis returns with spaces dedicated to science and technology

Tecnópolis, the mega exhibition to disseminate Argentine art, science and technology, returns in its tenth edition with seven thematic poles based on the slogan “**Cultivating the human**”. The exhibition will present numerous spaces to experiment, investigate and discover science, technology, ecology, sustainable development and design with playful and didactic proposals for all ages.

Further details: [Technopolis – Art, Science and Technology \(tecnopolis.gob.ar\)](#)



## BRAZIL

### Brazil improves position in global innovation ranking in 2021

Brazil climbed 5 places to 57th place in the Global Innovation Index rankings released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Brazil is the 4th country in the Latin American countries behind Chile, Mexico and Costa Rica. By improving its place by 5 ranking Brazil made a strong advance and acquired the best ranking since 2012. Brazil is the only economy in its region with expenditures on R&D above 1 percent of the GDP. Further details: [Global Innovation Index 2021 \(wipo.int\)](https://www.wipo.int/global-innovation-index-2021)

### ANPEI is supporting the Digital Transformation Assessment

ANPEI, along with Enrich in LAC, is supporting Fraunhofer IPK in the dissemination of the Digital Transformation Assessment, in order to expand the data from Brazilian companies. The first stage was held with ANPEI's members and it's already completed. The next stage of dissemination will cover other companies of the Brazilian ecosystem. ANPEI held a webinar on August 12th, to talk about this topic. [Click here to watch!](#)

### FAPESP issues call for innovations from young entrepreneurs under Centelha program

On September 14, 2021, FAPESP issued its call for proposals for the second edition of Centelha (Spark), the national program to support innovative entrepreneurs and disseminate entrepreneurial culture among young people. Further details: [Centelha - Chamada de Propostas \(fapesp.br\)](https://www.fapesp.br/centelha)

### ICTs sector generated more than R\$ 24.7 billion in revenue and 156,000 jobs in 2020

Based on information and data from 17 Institutes of Science and Technology (ICTs) related to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Energy, the Impact of Private Science and Technology Institutes in Brazil, the activities carried out by the institutes combined with the technologies and knowledge produced added R\$ 6.2 billion to the economy in 2020, in addition to generating more than R\$ 24.7 billion in total revenue and 156,900 jobs. The research also points out that more than R\$ 5.9 billion were collected in taxes resulting from the actions of entities at the federal, state and municipal levels. The study confirms the important role that Private Science and Technology Institutes play in Brazil, both in the research, development and innovation aspect, and in the economic aspect. Further details: [ICT](#)

### Brazil and Germany develop sustainable aviation fuel

A partnership between Brazil and Germany seeks to develop **a sustainable fuel for use in aviation**. Born in 2017, cooperation between institutions of the two countries resulted in the Project Alternative Fuels without Climate Impacts (ProQR) focusing on three areas: support the construction of a pilot plant for production of the supply; the creation of parameters for the use of these fuels and the training of researchers in the area. The project partners are Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (MCTI) and the National Petroleum Agency (ANP). The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) are involved on the German side.

Further details: [ProQR - Promoting Alternative Fuels without Climate Impacts \(giz.de\)](https://www.giz.de/Projekte/proqr)

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## LATEST NEWS

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#### Chile will build the largest wind farm in Latin America

Chile took a new step in its transformation process towards a clean energy matrix. The Horizonte wind farm with an installed capacity of 780 MW, will be the largest wind farm in Latin America. The wind farm will be build with an investment of \$850 million for its construction and will be located in Atacama Desert. Further details: [Chile construirá el parque eólico más grande de Latinoamérica](#)

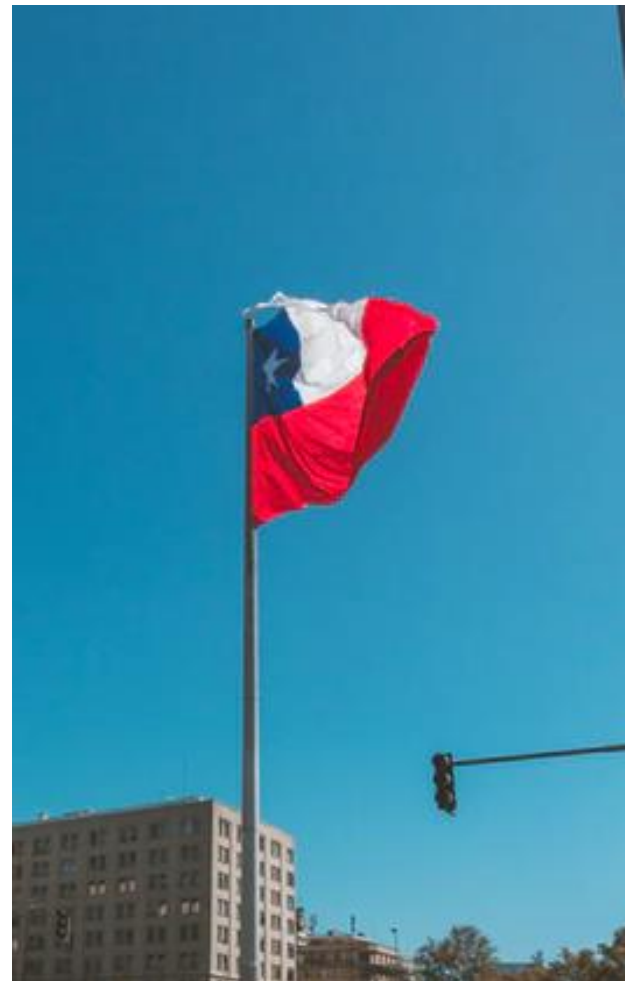
#### President Piñera signs decree promulgating the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement

President Sebastián Piñera signed the decree promulgating the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) at the Palacio de la Moneda. This agreement, which is a pioneer worldwide, enters into force on November 23 and arose from the common interest of Chile, New Zealand and Singapore to benefit smaller economies, through a friendly framework for ICT companies, providing more opportunities for citizens, especially for SMEs.

The agreement encourages the export of products and services through the regulation of some crucial matters, such as the free flow of data and non-discrimination to digital products, artificial intelligence, digital identity and privacy, among others. Further details: [Undersecretariat for International Economic Relations](#)

#### Chile, the most innovative economy in the region, according to the Global Innovation Index

The World Intellectual Property Organization (Ompi) has released its latest Global Innovation Index, with Chile set to become the most innovative economy in Latin America in 2021. To develop this investment, which evaluates 132 countries, UN member Ompi takes into account factors such as institutions, human capital, research, infrastructure, business development and markets, as well as creative information production. As a result, Chile ranks first among the countries in the region at 53rd globally. It is followed by Mexico in 55th place, Costa Rica in 56th place and Brazil in 57th place. Further details: [Daily Guardian](#)



CHILE

## Governments of Colombia and Brazil sign a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Research and Development

The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Tito José Crissien, signed today in Brazil a memorandum of understanding with Confap (National Council of Foundations to Support Research in Brazil) for the development of cooperation activities, such as financing in research projects. R + D + i (research, development and innovation), the development of postdoctoral, doctoral and master's stays and the organization of seminars and workshops on topics that are of interest to both nations. The signing of the agreement was carried out with the presence of the President of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, and the President of Colombia, Iván Duque, who is on an official visit to the neighboring country to address key issues for bilateral relations. Further details: [MinCiencia](#)

## Colombia: EU and Colombia open a new chapter to strengthen bilateral relations

The EU and Colombia agreed on a “Memorandum of Understanding on an Agenda of enhanced political and sectoral dialogue and cooperation for the next decade”, signed by High Representative Josep Borrell and the Vice-President and Foreign Minister of Colombia, Marta Lucía Ramírez in New York, in the presence of President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and the President of the Republic of Colombia, Iván Duque Márquez.

The Memorandum of Understanding highlights the importance of EU-Colombia relations and the intention to take forward and to deepen and strengthen our longstanding ties. Two of the priorities highlighted in MoU are related to sustainable development and climate change. Further details: [EU and Colombia strengthen bilateral relations](#)

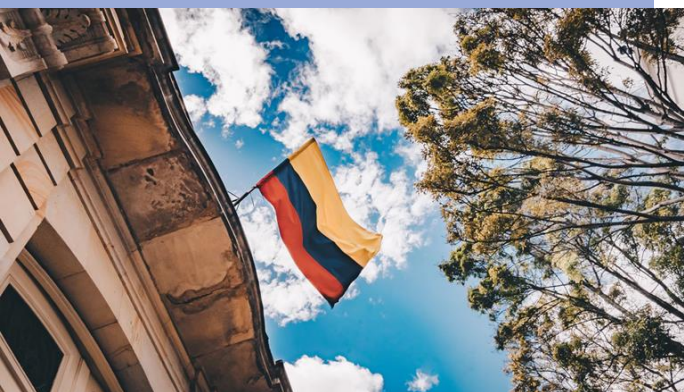
## In 2021, more than \$ 548 billion have been approved to finance Science, Technology and Innovation projects throughout Colombia

In its goal of strengthening science in all regions of Colombia, supporting scientific development in all sectors and helping economic reactivation, the government of President Iván Duque, through the Ministry of Science, has put the accelerator in the approval of resources of the General Royalties System during 2021. As a result, to date, \$ 548 billion of the \$ 550 billion established as the approval goal for 2021 have been allocated to finance projects and programs in Science, Technology and Innovation throughout the country. This investment is destined to the improvement of physical infrastructure and provision for research, technological development and innovation; also in strategies for the strengthening of institutional capacities for the promotion of scientific vocation and participation in CTel for boys, girls and young people; financial support to students at the master's and doctoral levels to develop their studies and contribute to research in different sectors, among others. Further details: [MinCencias](#)

# LATEST NEWS

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## COLOMBIA

## MinCencias and the SIC launch the 3.0 edition of 'Get the Most Out of Your Patent'

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, in partnership with the Superintendence of Industry and Commerce, and the JOINN Network, launches 'Get the Most out of your patent 3.0', an initiative that promotes the exploitation, commercialization and transfer of inventions protected or in the process of patent protection. The program seeks to strengthen Colombian inventions and achieve their commercialization. In this edition, 75 patents will be chosen, which will participate in theoretical-practical workshops in technological management with experts at the national level, in order to generate capacities that allow applicants to facilitate the commercialization and transfer of inventions. 30 inventions selected will receive management accompaniment and 6 of them will be able to access the fund for the maturation of technologies for up to \$50 million each. **Natural or legal persons with domicile in Colombia, who have a valid patent or a patent application pending before a patent office (in Colombia or abroad) can participate.** Further details: [MinCiencia](#)

# LATEST NEWS

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### **ANII Extends Its Support To Institutions To Provide Open Access To The Production Of National Science And Technology**

An initiative of the National Agency for Research and Innovation (ANII) allows science and technology institutions to make available their production of books, research, articles and theses, among others. In this sense, the development of the Timbó Portal has allowed researchers to produce their scientific work by accessing international bibliography, and since 2019, the commitment of [SILO](#), the National System of Digital Repositories promoted by ANII and 7 other national institutions, together with [REDI](#), the digital repository of ANII, has allowed the promotion of an inter-institutional policy of open access, which makes these national productions freely available. Through the REDI repository, ANII offers national institutions dedicated to research and development the infrastructure and processes necessary for the dissemination of their production in open access, complying with international standards that ensure its visibility, interoperability and long-term availability. The contents published in REDI are in turn available in the Timbó Portal, SILO, and other international portals, thus guaranteeing a wide dissemination of national production. As a result of a recent collaboration, the production of the CEIBAL Foundation and the results of research on the CEIBAL Plan have been incorporated into REDI and are now freely available for access. Further Details: [ANII](#)

### **EU-AUCI bilateral fund: The cooperation project that promotes the circular economy in sawmills was presented in Tacuarembó**

On Thursday, October 21, the presentation of a cooperation project linked to the development of the circular economy, of the "Development in Transition" initiative promoted by the European Union and the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation was made. The activity was carried out within the framework of a tour of the departments of the center-north of the country between October 18 and 27, of the Delegation of the European Union (DUE) in Uruguay, in collaboration with the InsPYraME project. The "Development Facility in Transition" initiative is a modality promoted to strengthen the strategic dialogue on cooperation between Uruguay and the European Union to respond to the challenges of Development in Transition and the 2030 Agenda. Under this instrument, the project "Circular Economy: Innovation and Sustainable Development of the mechanical wood processing industry" was approved in support of the transformation of the wood sector in Tacuarembó and Rivera. The project is aimed at 34 sawmill industries (micro, small and medium enterprises) in the departments of Tacuarembó and Rivera with implications in different links of the production chain, which will benefit more than 200 local workers related to the sector. Further details: [Uruguayan Agency of International Cooperation](#)

## URUGUAY





# SCHOLARSHIPS

## FUNDING

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### Call for Proposal for joint R&D projects between Germany and Argentina

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentina and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy ([BMWi](#)) will provide access to public funding for joint projects provided by [ANPCyT](#) in Argentina and by BMWi's ZIM programme (Central Innovation Programme for SMEs) in Germany.

**Deadline: 26 November 2021**

Projects should focus **on developing innovative products, processes, or technology-based services in all technological and application areas which have strong market potential.**

It is highly recommended that each interested partner (companies and research institutes) contact their local funding agency before starting to fill in a project application (in Germany: AIF Projekt GMBH project management agency for BMWi).

For more information click [Bilateral call between Argentina and Germany for funding business](#)

### Bridge2HE Flyer providing a good overview of the calls for proposals under Horizon Europe for 2021

The Bridge2HE project has prepared a flyer with a good overview of the 2021 calls for proposals under Horizon Europe. For details of the calls as well as for eligibility rules please consult the national contact points in your country. The following link will lead you to the flyer:

For more information click [Horizon Europe Calls 2021: New Framework Programme Launched It's First Calls for Proposals](#)





# SCHOLARSHIPS

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### Biodiversa+ 2021-2022 joint Call for Transnational Research Proposals

Biodiversa+, the European Biodiversity Partnership, is pleased to announce that its 2021-2022 joint Call for Transnational Research Proposals on “Supporting biodiversity and ecosystem protection across land and sea” is now open.

This call aims to support transnational research projects (3-years duration) addressing **one or more of the three (non-exclusive) themes below:**

**THEME 1** – Knowledge for identifying priority conservation areas, establishing effective and resilient ecological networks, enhancing species-based protection and preserving genetic diversity

**THEME 2** – Multiple benefits and costs of biodiversity and ecosystem protection: synergies and trade-offs

**THEME 3** – Effective management and equitable governance to deliver bold conservation outcome

Projects combining aspects from several themes are encouraged. This call is focused on the protection of biodiversity in the wild. This does not, for example, include efforts for restoration of habitats and species, or ex-situ conservation.

The call covers **all environments**, i.e. terrestrial, freshwater and marine. It also covers research on biodiversity conservation in the Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) of the EU.

**45 Funding Organisations from 33 countries are joining this call and have reserved – together with the European Commission – a total amount of over 40M€:**

Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy (incl. the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen), Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Morocco, Norway, Poland, Portugal (incl. the Azores), Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, The Netherlands, Tunisia and Turkey.

**The following Brazilian States will participate in the call, with the support of CONFAP:** Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso do Sul, Maranhão, Paraíba, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Rondônia, Santa Catarina. In addition, at the federal level, CNPq will participate in the call.

**Deadline for pre-proposals submission (mandatory):** Tuesday 30 November 2021, 15:00 CET (local time in Brussels)

**Deadline for full-proposals submission:** Thursday 14 April 2022, 15:00 CEST (local time in Brussels)

For further information:

<https://www.biodiversa.org/1772>

## THEMATIC GROUP 'INTERNATIONALIZATION – ENRICHES' NOW LAUNCHED!

The Thematic Group “Internationalisation – ENRICHES” will serve as a platform for communication and collaboration for the ENRICH projects promoted by the European Commission through Horizon 2020.

ENRICH as a global network of centres and hubs that promote the internationalization of European science, technology, and innovation is currently offering services to connect European research, technology, and business organizations looking for internationalization in several global frontrunner innovation markets: USA, Latin America, India, Africa, and China.

[ENRICH in the USA](#) and ENRICH in Brazil (now [ENRICH in LAC](#)) were both piloted since 2017 under the funding of the EC, and have now, in January 2021, both entered in the follow-up second phases – aiming to become fully sustainable networks. As the second largest world economy and a powerful industrial and technology player, China is a vital country for the internationalization of European STI organizations and [ENRICH in China](#) started as well as a Horizon 2020 project, financially supported by the European Commission from 2017 to 2020. Meanwhile, the network of centres in [Africa](#) and in [India](#) are new projects that were launched in 2021

For more details on ENRICH initiatives, please contact Robert Sanders, Internationalization – ENRICHES Thematic Group Leader at [robert.sanders@ebn.com](mailto:robert.sanders@ebn.com)

### ENRICH IN AFRICA

The first ENRICH in Africa Annual Congress will take place on 18th November 2021 at Workshop 17 Watershed, Cape Town, South Africa & online. It will connect innovation players across Europe and Africa, promoting shared learning and growth.

Current challenges and opportunities will be explored by discussing questions such as:

- How can we better support innovation across borders, connecting Europe and Africa?
- How can we meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals through innovation?
- How can we champion entrepreneurial opportunities for women?

This in-person and online event will bring together senior-level decision-makers, incubation and acceleration experts, business executives, entrepreneurs and experts from Europe and Africa. They will have the chance to exchange knowledge and discuss how to overcome the challenges faced by the African and European communities today to support current and future innovations for the benefit of both continents.

[Please register here](#) to attend the EIA Congress. Participation is free of charge.

## ENRICH IN CHINA

The Soft Landing activity is continuing, also in a virtual format.

China Hi-Tech Fair (CHTF) the largest and the most influential scientific and technological fair in China is coming soon! November 17th to 21st CHTF is currently the largest and the most significant scientific and technological fair in China and is renowned as "the No.1 Technology Show in China". It exhibits hi-tech products and holds high-level forums about topics such as environmental protection, next-generation IT technology, biology, advanced equipment manufacture, new materials and new energies.

The **Digital Version** of the China Hi-Tech Fair will allow organisations from business, research and innovation to promote their products and services for free, reaching an audience of more than 2 million online visitors. The application deadline for the China Hi-Tech Fair (CHTF) 2021 has been extended until October 30, 2021: [last chance to register here](#). Finally, **ENRICH in China is planning more webinars about opportunities in China!**

## EU-INDIA INNOCENTER

Soft Landing is also progressing and the EU-India Innocenter team has been able to attend events to recruit companies.

The **acceleration programme offered is for B2B and B2C start-ups**, and the first cohort has just started the programme. It's for companies that are looking at setting up an operational base or a global capability centre in India and are ready to raise capital from investors for India expansion. [Learn more about the acceleration programme](#)

## ENRICH IN THE USA

The Soft Landing and Funding Summits, planned physically, are still carried out in a virtual format. The next Online Funding Summit will take place at **Smart City Expo 2021**, during which European deep tech entrepreneurs and researchers will present their technologies, innovations, or products to top US investors (early stage VCs, business angels and equity accelerators - from the Silicon Valley in majority) plus a selection of ENRICH in the USA soft landing hubs and ecosystems.

On the other hand, a 5-day live **EU Roadshow** will take place on the **25-29 April 2022** back-to-back with **Hannover Messe**, during which representatives of ENRICH in the USA Soft Landing hubs, Investors and Ambassadors will be travelling to several EU cities **to meet European R&I actors, and their internationalisation channels** such as clusters, networks, accelerators, etc. The roadshow will provide a unique opportunity for European start-ups, R&I entrepreneurs and other actors interested in internationalizing to the US to pitch their venture to and take part in pre-organised bilateral discussions and networking opportunities with US experts without having to travel to the US.

If your project/organisation would be interested to host the US delegation or build other types of synergies within the context of the EU Roadshow, please get in touch with **Eva Fadil (efadil(at)group-gac.com)** or **Krisztina Dax (kdax(at)group-gac.com)** from the ENRICH in the USA consortium team!

# EXECUTIVE TRAINING COURSE

## FORESIGHT AND TECHNOLOGY PLANNING

### 2nd part on Executive Education Course on Foresight and Technology Planning on 26-27 of October

After a successful 1st part in June 2021, ENRICH in LAC conducted its 2nd part on Executive Education Course on Foresight and Technology Planning on 26-27 of October – an exclusive and free offer for selected ENRICH in LAC members and partners that applied in the last application round. This Executive course focused on promoting capabilities on technology and innovation planning through Foresight, Delphi, Roadmap, Scenario Planning, Data and Text mining, and Decision Making.

The first workshop series dealt with the basics of foresight and technology planning as well as with deepening insights into two techniques. The second workshop series took two further techniques into focus: Scenario Planning & Data and Text Mining for Foresight. Theoretical impulses are combined with 'hands on' practical sessions in small groups, such that the course participants can directly apply the newly learned skills.

The online course is jointly lectured by the following German and Argentinian experts:

**Martin G. Moehrle:** Director of the Institute of Project Management and Innovation (IPMI), University of Bremen, Germany, Chair of Innovation and Competence Transfer

**Adriana Sánchez Rico:** Professional of the National Program of Technological Surveillance and of the National Program of Technological Foresight, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. Professor of the Strategic Foresight Specialization, at University of Business and Social Sciences (UCES), Argentina

**Ralf Isenmann:** Professor for Innovation and Technology Management, Wilhelm Büchner Hochschule – Mobile University of Technology, Darmstadt, Germany

**Lena Kronemeyer:** Research Associate/PhD candidate at the Institute of Project Management and Innovation (IPMI), University of Bremen, Germany

[Watch the recordings online:](#)



If you are interested in collaboration or becoming an associated member of ENRICH in LAC please contact: [contact@lac.enrichcentres.eu](mailto:contact@lac.enrichcentres.eu)



# PRODUCTIVITY AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN LAC REGION: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR A NEW FUTURE



## Productivity and Digital Transformation in LAC region: Insights of the ECLAC Report on [Digital technologies for a new future](#)

The [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean \(ECLAC\)](#), which is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations founded with the purpose of contributing to the economic development of Latin America, coordinating actions directed towards this end, and reinforcing economic ties among countries and with other nations of the world, has recently published a report on [Digital technologies for a new future](#). The report comprises insights about the relation between digital transformation and productivity dynamics in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### Productivity Dynamics in the LAC region

Speeding up productivity growth and generating more and better jobs is one

challenge Latin America and the Caribbean is faced with to drive sustainable and inclusive development. In recent decades, growth in the region's countries has lagged behind that in both emerging and developed economies. This performance has been closely associated with the nature of growth.

While growth in emerging and high-growth economies has come mainly from productivity gains associated with structural change due to great waves of technological transformation e.g., digital revolution starting in the 1990s and the performance of technologically sophisticated sectors, the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean most growth is explained by the expansion of the labour force. Thus, the region's productivity gap relative to the technological frontier has widened in recent decades, resulting in a performance that is insufficient to keep up with population growth.

One reason for the region's weak productivity growth lies in the lack of diversification in

production and the concentration of production in natural resource-intensive activities (agriculture, fisheries, mining, and some industrial sectors), which are highly export-oriented but have few linkages to the rest of the production structure and no significant impact in terms of technological spillovers and capacity building.

Another reason for the stagnant productivity of the region lies in the opposing productivity differences between small and large companies, which are much greater than in other countries and regions. The ECLAC Report stated that the labor productivity of a medium-sized firm in Latin America is on average less than half that of a large firm, while it is 23% for small firms and only 6% for micro firms. Therefore, it is not surprising that on average, the productivity gap between micro and large enterprises in Latin America is seven times greater than in the European Union. While technology-intensive large firms in LAC region often have strong productivity growth, the vast majority of small firms show in contrast a declining or stagnant productivity, which is often associated with a slowness to adopt new technologies.

### **Digital Transformation and Productivity growth**

For sustained economic growth productivity growth is essential, since this is the only way to maintain income growth and access to essential goods and services. As the first industrial revolution showed the introduction of new technologies contributes to higher productivity in firms and in the economy as a whole.

Thus, it can be said, that technical progress is the basis for productivity growth.

Technical change has many potential impacts. Thus, at the **macroeconomic level** there is a strong positive correlation between the technology intensity of the production structure and the productivity of the economy, while at the **microeconomic level** digital transformation affects productivity and growth through four mechanisms that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of firms. Regarding these four mechanisms the ECLAC report stated the following four transmission channels through which digital technologies affect firms: (1) Operational efficiency (2) Better and more effective decision-making (3) Greater connectivity and (4) New business models.

Since – especially in times of transition and disruption – the positive and significant relationship between digitization and productivity growth is not always observable at the macroeconomic level, LAC countries have a window of opportunity to encourage and facilitate the adoption of technologies as well as to implement structural reforms for technological sophistication and innovation to define their position on the technological and economic roadmap for a new future.

[Click here](#) to read the full report (English) and to get more detailed information and compelling figures and tables regarding productivity, growth and digital transformation in LAC region.

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## COUNTRY PROFILE

# CHILE & EU

“

Chile counts on a significant potential of highly qualified scientists and outstanding research facilities. Traditionally, Chilean STI policy is focusing on funds and programs to encourage innovation.

”

Chile is one of the EU's key like-minded partners in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region, with a well-established economy and democracy ([European Commission](#)). The World Factbook describes Chile as a market-oriented economy characterized by a high level of foreign trade and a reputation for strong financial institutions and sound policy that have given it the strongest sovereign bond rating in South America. Exports of goods and services account for approximately one-third of GDP, with commodities making up some 60% of total exports. Copper is Chile's top export and provides 20% of government revenue ([The World Factbook](#)).

### Economic Forecast

According to the OECD's Economic Outlook from December 2020, Chile is set for a gradual recovery over the next two years, with activity returning to its pre-pandemic levels in late 2022. GDP growth will be 4.2% during 2021, after a contraction of 6% in 2020. Private consumption will be a main driver of the recovery, initially sustained by

measures implemented by the government to support households, a gradual improvement of the labour market sustained by hiring subsidies and withdrawals from pension funds. Investment will regain momentum at a slow pace, conditional on the evolution of the pandemic, driven by public infrastructure plans, supportive financing conditions and tax incentives. Recovering global demand will also be beneficial. Solid fiscal and monetary policy frameworks allowed the authorities to pursue bold measures, which prevented a deeper contraction and are avoiding deeper scars from the pandemic. Continuing with an ambitious structural reform agenda, in particular planned reforms to bolster pensions and female participation in the labour force, would sustain an inclusive recovery. Additional public investment, especially in education, the lifelong learning system, active labour market policies, and digital and transport infrastructure, would help strengthen the recovery further ([OECD Economic Outlook Chile](#)).



The Economist assumes that Chile's economic recovery will be robust, driven by expansive fiscal policy, multiple rounds of pension withdrawals and a rapid vaccine rollout, with real GDP returning to pre-pandemic levels in 2021 itself, giving Chile one of the fastest recovery rates in the region. ([The Economist](#))

### **Chile's Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Landscape**

Chile counts on a significant potential of highly qualified scientists and outstanding research facilities. Traditionally, Chilean STI policy is focusing on funds and programs to encourage innovation. Half of the research is financed through public funds, e.g. the Innovation Council is responsible for allocating funds from the Innovation Fund for Competitiveness. It was founded in 2006 and feeds on mining royalty, a tax the government has imposed on mining companies. The Innovation Fund connects the various public innovation programs and also manages an essential part of all resources that the state allocates to the National System for Innovation. The Innovation Fund disposes of nearly 30% of the total national innovation system for competitiveness (more than US\$ 200 million a year). The government also supports the business sector with targeted innovation and research funding and has succeeded to build up a very strong start-up ecosystem, including angels, incubators, accelerators and the public start-up accelerator 'Start up Chile'. Since December 2018, a new Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation (CTCI) is responsible for the Chilean research policy. The Ministry of Economy, on the other hand, remains responsible for business innovation.

The newly founded Ministry of Science also takes responsibility for the Millennium Science Initiative (ICM). The ICM supports institutes of excellence (Millennium Institutes) and the so-called nucleus of excellence for natural and social science research at Chilean universities. In 2010 the Fraunhofer Centre for Systems Biotechnology (CSB) was founded by Fraunhofer Chile as the first foreign centre of excellence. The new National Agency for Research and Development (ANID) replaces the former central funding organisation CONICYT. Two other essential funding organisations are the Economic Development Agency (CORFO) and the Foundation for Agricultural Innovation (FIA). Chile signed an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation with the European Commission in September 2002. The VIII and last Joint Steering Committee Meeting took place in February 2017. Chile was eligible for funding under the Horizon 2020 programme (2014-2020) and had one of the highest rates of participation among countries in Latin America. Between 2007 and 2013 (FP7), 117 Chilean institutional partners have been supported in some 103 signed grant agreements for different projects. The programme Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions has been particularly successful with 45 Chilean participations supporting 447 researchers of Chilean nationality. Approximately €12 million have been committed to the Chilean participants for all these different activities, as EU contribution ([European Commission](#)).

Chile has been/is participating to 108 H2020 project participations (state of February 2021) ([Horizon 2020 Dashboards](#)). The capital Santiago is listed 6th on the Latin America Cities Innovation Index ([Innovation Cities](#)).

## National Science Technology and Innovation priorities

The Chilean plan for STI & Entrepreneurship 2018-2019 ([CTIE](#)) defines the following strategic sectors:

- Energy (solar & green hydrogen)
- Healthy food
- Sustainable tourism
- Creative economies
- Aquaculture and sustainable fishing
- Natural disasters
- Mining
- Industry 4.0
- Health
- National logistics
- Water resources
- Education and social development

## Previous contribution in Horizon 2020

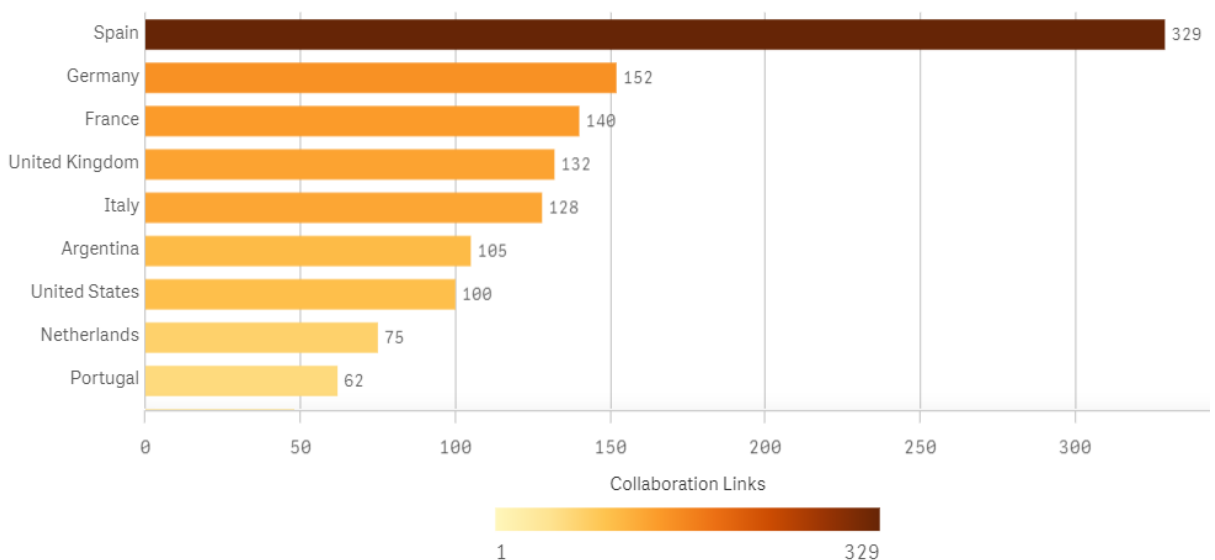
In total 146 Chilean organisations were involved in Horizon 2020 projects with a total of 7.86M Euro funding received by the project's participants. Structured by thematic priority, projects were conducted mainly within the frame of:

- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (95 participations)

- Health, demographic change, well-being (13 participations)
- Climate, environment, raw materials (11 participations)
- Food, security, sustainable agriculture, marine research (8 participations)
- Research Infrastructure (5 participations)
- European Research Council (2 participations)
- Europe in a changing world- inclusive, innovative and reflective societies (2 participations)
- Smart, green and integrated transport (2 participations)

The three major organisations in terms of received funding were the Universidad de Chile (1.86M Euro), Pontificia Universidad Catolica Chile (1.72M Euro) and Servicio de Salud Metropolitano Norte (530k Euro). The main collaboration links are Spain with 329 collaborations, Germany with 152 collaborations and France with 140 collaborations.

Regarding Chile's SME Performance regarding Horizon 2020, 21 SME applied for H2020 project from which 7 SMEs were actually involved with a total net EU contribution of 479,3k Euro funding received.





### Funding opportunities in Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the biggest EU research and innovation programme ever with €95.5 billion of funding available over 7 years (2021 to 2027). It is open to the world, which means that participants from all over the world, including entities established in Chile, can take part in most calls.

For the first time Chile, as high-income country, is not in Horizon Europe's list of low and mid-income countries eligible for automatic EU funding, which means that the general rule is that the entities will need to fund their own participation.

They can however receive exceptional funding, if (1) their country is explicitly identified in the Horizon Europe work programme and call for proposals as being eligible for funding or (2) the granting authority considers that their participation as a beneficiary is essential for implementing the project, for example in view of their: outstanding competence/expertise, access to particular research infrastructures, access to particular geographical environments, access to particular data. [More information.](#)

