

The BELLA Programme celebrates the inauguration of the EllaLink transatlantic cable



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



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- A new digital data highway brings Europe and Latin America closer than ever by enabling digital transformation and making unprecedented opportunities possible.
- The BELLA Programme has completed the construction of the undersea EllaLink transatlantic cable, allowing direct, high-capacity and secure connectivity between Europe and Latin America for the very first time.
- The need for a fibre-optical cable linking Brazil to the EU started at the 7th EU – Brazil High-Level Summit held in February 2014 and was further developed at the 2015 summit between the EU and CELAC, where the heads of state decided to close the communication infrastructure gap and gave political support to digitally connect the two regions.
- The connectivity gap has been closed with 6,000 kilometres of cable, reducing the current latency by 50%, bringing it to approximately 60 milliseconds.
- EllaLink is a new high-capacity, direct, undersea cable between the two continents, with its main nodes physically located in the cities of Sines (Portugal), Funchal (Madeira), Praia (Cabo Verde), Fortaleza, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), with a terrestrial extension in Europe to Lisbon (Portugal), Madrid and Barcelona (Spain), and Marseille (France). Furthermore, EllaLink has been designed so that it can be extended to Morocco, the Canary Islands, Mauritania and French Guiana.
- BELLA provides support for the long-term interconnectivity needs of the European and Latin American research and education communities. This is achieved through two complementary and interdependent actions, namely the BELLA-S and BELLA-T projects. These two projects will significantly enhance the ability of researchers and academics across the two regions to collaborate.
- This transatlantic initiative enhances digital and data connectivity between the two regions and brings unprecedented opportunities for scientific, cultural and business exchange and facilitates the sharing of high-performance computing and Earth observation data between the two regions.
- To bring this large-scale initiative to life, the BELLA consortium was established by a public-private partnership of stakeholders on both sides of the Atlantic. The EU is the largest investor in the initiative, deploying around €26.5 million to support 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 NRENs and the Brazilian government.
- The BELLA Programme is implemented by a Consortium of the Latin American and European Research and Education Networks, RedCLARA and GÉANT, together with the National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) of Brazil (RNP), Chile (REUNA), Colombia (RENATA), Ecuador (CEDIA), France (RENATER), Germany (DFN), Italy (GARR), Portugal (FCT|FCCN) and Spain (RedIRIS).
- The Latin American NRENs are connected to RedCLARA, the Latin American regional research and education network, supporting the collaboration needs of academics and scientific researchers across the region.



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- With the operationalisation of BELLA connectivity after the launch of the EllaLink cable, [name of country] will be connected to a network that will allow scientists, academics and students to access the data and research infrastructures they need in a fast and reliable way.
- Starting at an initial 100Gbps connection between RedCLARA in Latin America and GÉANT in Europe – together with an additional 100Gbps connection for Copernicus traffic, BELLA connectivity can scale up to a potential of 8 Tbps, sufficient to future-proof research and education collaboration between the two regions for the next 25 years.
- “The BELLA Programme is a very important initiative connecting the European Union with the Latin America and their academic and scientific communities.” — Eduardo Grizendi, Engineering and Operations Director of RNP, Brazil.
- “BELLA is of vital importance for the development of Latin America, in both its component related to the EllaLink cable and also through the one related to the connectivity among the LAC.” — Paola Arellano, Directora Ejecutiva REUNA, Chile.
- “BELLA is an iconic Programme that involves various academic networks in Europe and Latin America. This initiative allows the shared data capacity to increase, as well as the collaborative work between the academic and research community from Europe and Latin America.” — Juan Pablo Carvallo, Director Ejecutivo de CEDIA, Ecuador.
- The operationalisation of the EllaLink cable delivers on the political promise of a digital bridge between Europe and Latin America and inspires EU-LAC 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 the strong international digital partnerships set out in Europe’s Digital Decade targets.
- BELLA is the result of an international cooperation effort that includes the continuous contribution of public bodies and governments from the EU and its partners in LAC.
- The cable will be officially inaugurated during the Digital Assembly 2021 (1st to 2nd of June), jointly organised by the European Commission and the Portuguese Presidency, one of the most important European annual forums that gathers high-level policy makers to debate EU digital policy. The inauguration will be attended by leaders from both sides of the Atlantic, preceded by a high-level plenary session on the EU-LAC digital partnership and the impact of BELLA connectivity.
- Register to attend online: [Leading the Digital Decade 2021 \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

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