Global Gateway

PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Copernicus Europe's eyes on Earth

GOBIERNO NACIONAL CON PASO FIRME

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AIG Autoridad Nacional para la Innovación Gubernamental

Copernicus LAC Panamá

The CopernicusLAC Panama Centre

The CopernicusLAC Panama Centre is a regional hub which will boost the resilience and prosperity of Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries by supporting their use of Copernicus Earth observation (EO) data and the development of tailor-made applications. This data is key to preparing for natural disasters and a changing climate, both of which particularly affect the LAC region, as well as supporting a more sustainable and prosperous economy on land and at sea. The Centre will initially focus on capacity development and applications for disaster risk reduction (DRR), with later topics including crucial issues for the region, such as food security.

The Centre is formed as part of the **EU-LAC Digital Alliance**, within the framework of the **EU Global Gateway** strategy, and in collaboration with the government of Panama. The European Space Agency (ESA) is coordinating the Centre's implementation through a Contribution Agreement with the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission, and in partnership with Panama's MIRE (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Government Innovation Authority (AIG), and SENACYT (National Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation).

The European Union's Global Gateway strategy aims to strengthen health, education, and research systems around the worldwide through sustainable investments and partnerships. Through the Global Gateway, projects are carried out in collaboration with local stakeholders in partner countries around the world to generate lasting benefits by promoting smart, clean and secure connections in the digital, energy and transport sectors.

The EU-LAC Digital Alliance serves as a key component of the implementation of the Global Gateway in the LAC region and supports the EU in forming sustainable connections with partner countries. It provides a strategic framework for promoting bi-regional cooperation on digital and spatial issues.

What are the objectives of the CopernicusLAC Panama Centre?

Fostering the use of space-based information and the **regional uptake of Copernicus open data** and services

- **Building regional capacity** to process Sentinel data and use Copernicus products for decision-making
- Developing EO services **to support a variety of uses** in close cooperation with national and regional LAC organisations, including applications such as DRR as well as risk and recovery mapping
- **Driving cooperation between LAC and EU entities**, while strengthening links among the EO and DRR communities in the LAC region
- Supporting the development of a **high-performance cloud computing infrastructure**

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What is Copernicus?

Copernicus is the Earth observation component of the European Union's Space Programme. It provides **free and openly accessible** data and information services **that draw from satellite and in situ (non-space) observations**. The data provided by Copernicus supports public authorities, industrial service providers, and international organisations.

Climate Change | Emergency Management | Land Monitoring | Atmosphere Monitoring | Security | Marine Monitoring

Which Pilot Services will be developed?

To complement the use of EO technologies in the LAC region, and to boost the benefits for local communities, the CopernicusLAC Panama Centre is currently developing three streams of **EO-based pilot services** focused on harnessing Copernicus data for DRR as well as risk and recovery mapping. The pilot services will be based on stakeholder consultations and assessed for validity through various use cases before being **handed over to local stakeholders for their continued implementation.**

The pilot services include:

1. **Hydromet Service:** monitoring and forecasting of **climate and water-related phenomena.** This service provides crucial information on drought, floods, and forest fires and uses geospatial information produced with a global hydrological model
2. **Geological Hazards Service:** identifying and monitoring natural hazards such as **ground movement, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and landslides**, helping to detect early signs of geological activity
3. **Exposure Service:** assessing and mapping the **vulnerability of populations, infrastructure, and assets** to natural hazards. This information is essential for DRR, urban planning, and resilience building.

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What are the benefits of the Centre?

CopernicusLAC for Decision-Makers:

- Leverage Copernicus data in a **variety of national and regional policy areas**, including the environment, agriculture, emergency preparedness and response, and energy
- Benefit from **CopernicusLAC training resources and tools** to apply Copernicus data more effectively
- Connect with other institutions and actors through CopernicusLAC **community-building events**

CopernicusLAC for Innovators:

- Leverage Copernicus data to **develop or improve products** and services in sectors such as environmental monitoring, agriculture, or infrastructure development
- Gain a **competitive advantage** by benefiting from CopernicusLAC **training and support** on accessing and processing EO data
- Connect with European entities and foster cross-regional engagement through CopernicusLAC **matchmaking events**

CopernicusLAC for Researchers and Educators:

- Benefit from **free, expert-led training modules and educational resources** from the CopernicusLAC Digital Campus
- Participate in online and in-person **workshops and community-building events** to meet and connect with peers and experts
- Develop skills and ideas while gaining recognition through the **CopernicusLAC hackathon**

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What are the benefits of the Centre?

CopernicusLAC for Underrepresented Communities and Citizens:

- Learn more about how **Copernicus EO data benefits the LAC region** by addressing challenges such as natural disasters and climate change
- Take part in free **massive open online courses** (MOOCs), **hackathons, and other opportunities**
- Participate in **capacity building workshops** to develop skills in using EO data for DRR, environmental monitoring, or traditional knowledge management

CopernicusLAC for International Cooperation:

- Develop **a focal point for regional cooperation** in which LAC countries can support each other in the application of Copernicus data
- Foster links between regional and international partners to promote **wider political, economic and scientific cooperation** in the region
- **Drive digitalisation and development** forward in the framework of the **EU-LAC Digital Alliance**

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