

## Message from the Director

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Dear colleagues,

I would like to extend my greetings to all of you. I am greatly honored to assume the presidency of the Institute of Latin American Studies in Bucharest, which is responsible for promoting the relations between Latin America and European Union, especially Central and Eastern Europe through research, exchange programs, debates and partnerships.

Also, I thank you for all the support provided in the previous year and I kindly invite you to stay close to our events in 2015!

Best regards,  
Iordan Gheorghe Barbulescu

## 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the internship programme

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The Institute of Latin American Studies opened on December 2014 the first edition of the internship programme and welcomed 23 students coming from Chile, Mexico, Spain, Italy, Norway and Romania! The interns prove high interest for the Latin American Studies. For example, in one of their recent activities, they have analyzed the EU-LAC relation, underlining possible ways in which the European Union and Latin America and Caribbean can work together, having as starting point a HRVP Catherine Ashton's declaration, stating that `The EU is following with interest the dynamics of America and I believe we need to find even more ambitious ways of working together`. ([http://www.eeas.europa.eu/lac/index\\_en.htm](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/lac/index_en.htm)).

Please see `Possible ways of cooperation between EU-LAC` on page 2

## Possible ways of cooperation between EU-LAC

### *Interns' opinions*

*What are the areas that really interest us? I think they are clearly the areas of investment, infrastructure or higher education (Andreea Marian)*

*It is important to be aware of the past and present cultural, scientific, intellectual and social diversity and exchanges between individuals, countries and regions within the wide EU-CELAC area, with a view to determinate new ideas. (Andreea Vajda)*

*.. the promotion of startup oriented within the technological revolution of ICT and the molecular paradigm in pregnancy (nanotechnology, biotechnology and materials science), may be an option for the development of the region. (Assunta Cecere)*

*One domain in which the EU and LAC should work together is connected to the political system and democracy. I think that both continents could benefit from a cooperation in this area, especially the former communist countries from East-Central Europe that only recently joined the Union and LAC former communist countries, because they are both still in a process of transition towards a qualitative democracy and they are facing the same challenges. (Bianca Marcoci)*

*Regional development cooperation between the EU and Latin America has traditionally been a key element in their relations and must be seen as complementing national and sub regional programmes. It brings added value, a fact made clear by the evaluations, and has focused on networking initiatives between actors from the two regions.(Cristina Buleu)*

*Given these new dynamics, it is necessary to renew the commitment between the two blocs at the political level, leading efforts to a more inclusive society with greater equity and ensuring equal rights for many political and social to every person.(Diego Pavez)*

*Therefore, in my personal opinion, the development of new programs related with economics, politics and education are the most important for EU and Latin America and Caribbean work together in a good way. (Felipe Garcia)*

*I also think and strongly believe on the necessity of creating an institution to maintain and to be in constant functioning that would be specialized in these relations. It should imply workers of both sides and with meetings, working groups, collaboration with other institutions of the field. (Georgiana Pop)*

*One way in which the EU and LAC can better work together is in the economic field. CELAC is still in its incipient stage, and if it would be modeled after its European counterpart, economically speaking, it has the potential to become one of the biggest markets in the world. (Tudor Vaidean)*

*"Finding the ambitious ways or working together" should be easier thanks to the upcoming Summit of the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean leaders, scheduled to take place in Brussels, in 2015. Even though there have been raised some concerns regarding some policies tagged as "incoherent", I believe that the future CE-CELAC will be put in order at this Summit and will achieve a greater voice.(Ioana Tudora)*

*By widening the already existing programs: their priorities are clear and, since this collaboration started, results are visible: The AL-INVEST, EURO-SOLAR, LAIF and ALFA KID plans have successfully fought these problems and helped thousands of small enterprises by making them grow beyond borders, as well as disfavored individuals facilitating their education, bringing them essential goods and basic services.(Julio Ponce Mendoza)*

*Educational programs, internships, etc, are some of the activities that EU and LA could start working on, in order to get the result that they should be aimed on, that, from the side of EU I image that it would be a very interesting experience to visit another culture, and from LA, they would want to solve the kind of problems that I was talking before, saying it in a very general way "stop being poor" (Kevin Cabrera)*

*In my opinion, we could work about education and economic trades, for example, the European Union and Latin America could make programs that attend the education like Isla Internship. Also to make trade with different countries from Latin America. (Mariela Vasquez)*

*I believe that the EU should pay consideration and speed up the process of regional unity considering Latin America's ethnic and cultural diversity...From where I stand, another field that both EU and Latin America could collaborate lies in the illicit drug business that augmented in the last decades. (Mihaela Cernei)*

*I believe that the most important issue of the LAC is their war on drugs and the violence this brings. If the EU could increase their laws and allocate more people to the matter of drug trafficking and if the EU authorities could have a more intense collaboration with the LAC authorities, I think that the communication between EU and LAC will seriously reduce the import/export of drugs out of LAC and into EU , matter that would reduce the EU 's reluctance to LAC (Oana Lup)*

*All in all, as mentioned before cooperation is the key to success and this can only be achieved through all these summits, delegations, policies, and laws that have been launched so far and that need to be regarded with seriousness and dedication in order to achieve what has always been wanted: world peace, prosperity and good cohabitation (Alexandra Preda)*

*I propose a more effectively cooperation with the increase of mutual understanding. How can this be done? By encouraging the exchange of experiences between young students: internships, voluntary organizations, scholarships in various fields, investment in the cultural field, translations of books, conferences and travel opportunities.(Raluca Lupsan)*

*I think that the strategy of EU in Latin America identifies three priorities: Cooperation on global challenges such as environmental protection and climate change, Expansion of economic ties and promotion of mutually beneficial trade and investment, Cross-border networking in the fields of science, research, education and culture (Daniel Tatar)*

## EU-LAC: recent news

HR/VP Federica Mogherini has participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> CELAC Summit, held in Costa Rica, between 28-29 January 2015. At the end of the two days of sessions, the political leaders of the Latin American and Caribbean States adopted The Political Declaration of Belen, reiterating the previous engagement assumed in Puerto Rica and Cuba.

The speech of HR/VP Federica Mogherini can be accessed here: [http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2015/150128\\_04\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2015/150128_04_en.htm)



Source: <http://www.rree.go.cr/celac/cumbre/>

## Opportunities in the field of Latin American Studies

### Open Call for Research Projects - EU-LAC Foundation

EU-LAC Foundation First Semester 2015 Open Call for Research Projects Related to the bi-regional relationship EU-Latin America & the Caribbean

Deadline 31 March 2015.

More information available at: <http://eulacfoundation.org/en/opencall>



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