



## Latin American and Caribbean Days 2021

(Information and programme, 19 April 2021)

Since 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, within the Bled Strategic Forum, has been organizing **Latin American and Caribbean Days international conference** ("LAC Days"), aimed at strengthening bilateral and bi-regional cooperation with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The LAC Days also foster mutual understanding and cooperation among businesses, institutions and public from both sides.

The 2021 LAC Days are taking place in the week between 19 and 23 April 2021 in the virtual format due to the pandemic. The conference will be divided in several parts addressing economic, sector specific (environment & science), and cultural issues.

This year, the traditional high-level panel "Opportunities of the EU-LAC Cooperation", devoted to political bilateral and bi-regional cooperation is adapted to the circumstances of pandemic. We invited foreign ministers from a set of EU and LAC countries to share their views and visions of bi-regional relations in short video messages.

Economic discussions will focus on existing opportunities and offer an insight into possible cooperation between Slovenia and LAC countries (i.e. presentation of business environment, opportunities and the companies with interest and/or experience in the region) as well as explore possible synergies between Slovenian and LAC business partners. One of the panel discussions will address good practices in circular economy.

In sector-specific panels, the possibilities of cooperation in facing environmental challenges of common concern, especially in sustainable water management, and in other areas of science and research will be discussed – with particular focus on green





transition and digital transformation, cooperation between research institutions and researchers from Slovenia and LAC countries as well as the EU and LAC, including the possible role of European programmes (e.g. Horizon Europe). We are very pleased to partner with Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR) once again to organize one of the panels on science and research collaboration.

In another important cooperation with the **EU-LAC Foundation, the 12th Reflection Forum on "Contributions of the bi-regional strategic partnership to shaping greener recovery"** is taking place on 19 and 20 April 2021, back-to-back with the 2021 LAC Days. (Participation at the Forum discussions is by invitation only.)

Several cultural events will enrich the LAC Days programme. The 2021 LAC Days will also benefit from strong representation of EU institutions, research centres and associations, science and academia, the business community, culture, the diplomatic corps, and politics.

**Slovenia looks forward to the participation of LAC representatives at the 2021 LAC Days and to their active contribution in discussions.**

The topics addressed in the LAC Days panels already reflect the agenda of Slovenia's Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2021.

Given the prominence of environmental, socio-economical, cultural issues in the LAC countries and in the 2021 LAC Days agenda, we expect lively discussions that will strengthen and create new synergies for an even stronger cooperation in the future.

Please find enclosed a draft Programme of the 2021 LAC Days.

The working language of the LAC Days Conference is English.

For registration to the panels, latest programme and other LAC Days information, please follow:

[www.facebook.com/BledStrategicForum](https://www.facebook.com/BledStrategicForum)





**3rd Latin American and Caribbean Days (LAC Days)  
Ljubljana, 19–23 April 2021 (in virtual form)  
(Programme, 19 April 2021)**

**Monday, 19 April 2021**

16.00–18.30 **Reflection Forum »Contributions of the bi-regional strategic Partnership to shaping greener recovery«** in cooperation with the International EU-LAC Foundation  
Welcoming remarks,  
Session 1: »Lessons learned and capacities to implement green recovery actions«  
(by invitation only)

**Tuesday, 20 April 2021**

16.00–18.30 **Reflection Forum »Contributions of the bi-regional strategic partnership to shaping greener recovery«** in cooperation with the international EU-LAC Foundation  
Session 2: »Strengthening the role of international cooperation in addressing Climate Change« (by invitation only)

18.00–19.00 **Opening of the exhibition »La Doctora«** about the Slovenian-Paraguayan anthropologist and researcher Dr Branislava Sušnik, at the Slovene Ethnographic Museum (virtual), followed by a new documentary film on Dr Branislava Sušnik  
<https://www.etno-muzej.si/sl/dogodki/doctora-zivljenje-in-delo-slovenske-znanstvenice-v-paragvaju-odprtje-razstave>, and  
<https://youtu.be/XtuRaTGlyHU>

**Wednesday, 21 April 2021**

15.45–16.00 **Welcoming remarks:**  
Mag. Anita Pipan, Ambassador, Director-General, Directorate for Multilateral Affairs and Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director General, Directorate General for International Partnerships, European Commission

16.00–18.00 **Session I: Circular economy – Good practices from both regions** moderated by Ladeja Godina Košir, Chair of the Coordination Group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP) & Executive Director Circular Change Institute for Circular Economy





16:00–16:10 Opening remarks by the Moderator

16:10–16:40 Circular journey 2020/21 – key milestones and the role of national circular networks

- Linnet Solway – Eurochile, Chile (5 min)
  - Beatriz Luz – Exchange4Change, Brazil (5 min)
  - Dr. Dragica Marinič – ŠGZ - SRIP Circular Economy, Slovenia (5 min)
- Q&A – engaging the audience and active listeners in the discussion (15 min)

16:40–17:10 Research and innovation in the core of circular transformation

- Dr. Andrej Kržan & dr. Uroš Novak – National Institute of Chemistry, Slovenia (5 min)
  - Dr. Mojca Pobrežnik, IOS, Slovenia (5 min)
  - Recycling company from Brazil Wise, Bruno Igel, Brazil
  - Fernando Maurin, Fundación Revalora, Chile, (5 min)
- Q&A – engaging the audience and active listeners in the discussion (15 min)

17:10–17:45 Challenges of circular leaders of change in business environment

- Tjaša Ban, Plastika Skaza, Slovenia (5 min)
  - Tina Mavrič, Aquafil, Slovenia (5 min)
  - Catalila Giraldo, Cadenas de Valor más Sustentables, Chile
  - Flex Sinctonics, Jouse Graton, Brasil (TBC)
- Q&A – engaging the audience and active listeners in the discussion (15 min)

17:45–18:00 Concluding thoughts of each panellist and final remarks of active listeners.

Active listeners: H.E. Gorazd Renčelj, Ambassador of Slovenia in Brazil  
Representative of DG INTPA (TBC)  
Ambassadors of LAC countries in Slovenia

*Latin and European. Big and small. Both circular. We are going to explore different dimensions of circular transition from the perspective of national networks, researchers and innovators as well as of business leaders. Climate and health crisis are two parts of the same coin – how are they influencing everyday decision-making process on different levels? How can different stakeholders contribute to the implementation of highly ambitious “global green agenda” and what is the role of network governance? Let us see how the “plastics challenge” is addressed in different contexts and how is systemic approach enabling connectivity of key transitional points within countries as well as globally.*





18.00–20.00 Session II: **Integrated water management in changing climate**  
moderated by mag. Alenka Mubi Zalaznik, LIMNOS Ltd; host institution  
of Global Water Partnership Slovenia

18.00-18.25 Introduction

Integrated water management in changing climate  
Dr. Barbara Čenčur Cerk, Faculty of natural science and engineering,  
University of Ljubljana, president of Global Water Partnership Slovenia

Experience in integrated water management in LAC  
Dr. Alex Guerra, Climate Change Institute, Guatemala

18.25-19.00 **Panelists**  
(each 5-7 min)

Transboundary water management cooperation in the Sava River Basin  
Samo Grošelj, International Sava River Basin Commission

Problems with cyanobacteria in surface waters and early detection of  
toxic representatives, Dr. Tina Eleršek, National Institute of Biology,  
Slovenia,

Nature based solutions for circular management of resources in cities,  
Dr. Nataša Atanasova, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering,  
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Team Europe Initiatives for the LAC region  
Horst Pilger, Head of Sector Regional Programmes Latin America, DG  
INTPA, EC

Škocjanski zatok: from degraded area to water nature reserve  
Borut Mozetič and Bojana Lipej, DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia

19.00 -20.00 Q&A engaging the audience and active listeners in the discussion

Active listeners: Ambassadors of LAC countries in Slovenia  
Representative of Ministry of the Environment and spatial planning

*Integrated water management is a comprehensive process. Institutional setting, national legislation, pursuit of good practices and constant adaptation to change best describes the process of integrated water management. However, it is the people that counts the communities, practitioners and policy makers who work jointly for success. The process is influenced by climate change and coordinated action for maximum sustainability of vital ecosystems and community welfare is necessary.*





**Thursday, 22 April 2021**

15.55–19.00 Session I: **Forum on Bi-regional Economic Cooperation**  
moderated by Anita Mlakar

- 15.55 - Introductory remarks by the Moderator
- 16.00-16.10 Welcoming remarks and Presentation of economic cooperation of Slovenia with LAC countries  
Mag. Iztok Grmek, Ambassador, Director General, Directorate for Economic and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia
- 16.10-16.15 H.E. Mr Renato Mosca de Souza, Ambassador of Brazil in Slovenia
- 16.15-16.25 SLOBRAZ Chamber of Commerce Slovenia Brazil, São Paulo, Mrs Tatjana Močenik, Vice President and Author of the project Virtual Map of Slovene Companies in Brazil:  
<https://slobraz.com.br/> and <https://slovenianbusinessmap.com/>
- 16.25-16.30 Slovenian Global Business Network (SGBN), São Paulo, Mrs Mateja Perovšek Ciuchini, Executive manager, Presentation of SGBN and plans to expand the virtual map of Slovenian companies within the SGBN:  
[https://www.facebook.com/sloveniangulobalbusinessnetwork?\\_rdc=1&\\_rdr](https://www.facebook.com/sloveniangulobalbusinessnetwork?_rdc=1&_rdr)
- 16.30-16.35 Arex d.o.o., Slovenian company- Example of good practice Mrs Suzana Pendić, sales - key account manager, Presentation of experience in the transfer of knowledge and technology to the Brazilian market: [https://youtu.be/CRk3Yvleo\\_U](https://youtu.be/CRk3Yvleo_U)
- 16.35-16.45 Mercosur Presentation, H.E. Dr. Juan Facetti, Ambassador of Paraguay in Slovenia (also presentation of PY trade opportunities)
- 16.45- 16.50 Slovene Enterprise Fund: Presentation of the network and support for small and medium-sized enterprises entering the Latin American market, Mrs Maja Tomanič Vidovič, Director,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujL8QDZdJbU>
- 16.50-17.00 EURACEN, Chamber of Commerce Europe - Central America in Bruxelles: Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Panama, El Salvador, Mr Erwin De Weerd
- 17.00-17.05 DUOL d.o.o., Slovenian company, Mr Gregor Rijavec, Head of Global Partner Network, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEyyEA0-nBo>





- 17.05-17.10 Roto Slovenija d.o.o., Slovenian company, Mr Nusa Pavlinjek, General Manager, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMLn4y9dxL4>
- 17.10-17.15 Mexican Businesses Council for Foreign Trade, Investment and Technology (COMCE),  
Mr. Sergio E. Contreras, Executive Vice-president and President of the Europe Section
- 17.15-17.20 CETIS d.d., Slovenian company, Mrs Mihela Colnarič, Commercial Director – Security Printing Solutions,
- 17.20-17.25 "Promoción de Inversiones en InvestChile", Mrs Catalina Pérez, Ejecutiva de Promoción
- 17.25-17.30 MEDEX, d.o.o., Slovenian company, Mrs Aleša Mižigoj, Director
- 17.30-17.35 "Agencia Argentina de Inversiones y Comercio Internacional",  
Mr Santiago Paz, Director de inversiones,
- 17.35-17.40 Dewesoft d.o.o., Slovenian company, Mr Primož Rome, Latin America Regional Manager
- 17.40-18:40 Q&A and remarks, engaging the audience and active listeners in the discussion
- 18.40 -19.00 Concluding thoughts by H. E. Mr Renato Mosca de Souza, Ambassador of Brazil in Slovenia

Active listeners: H. E. Mr Luis Javier Campuzano, Ambassador of Mexico and Mr Rodrigo Baez, Embassy of Mexico  
Ambassadors of other LAC countries in Slovenia

*Forum will include presentations of some Slovenian companies, their experience, as well as presentation of Chambers of Commerce, Agencies, also economic environment of some LAC countries.*

- 19.00-21.00 Session II: **EU and LAC: Twin transition, Missions and Citizen Science**  
moderated by mag Peter Volasko, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Head of Science Directorate, HORIZON EUROPE Strategic PC Member – SI, BG JRC Member – SI, ERAC Deputy Member – SI.
- GREEN TRANSITION:
    - Dr. Gregor Anderluh (KI), Director of National Institute of Chemistry, Slovenia - "NIC and Green Transition"







- Dr. Andreja Kutnar (UP and INNORENEW), COE, Slovenia - "INNORENEW contribution"
- DIGITAL TRANSITION:
  - Dr. John Shawe-Taylor (IRCAI), Director & UNESCO chair in AI, International Research Centre of Artificial Intelligence under the auspices of UNESCO, - "IRCAI contribution"
  - Karolina Schlegel (MIZŠ), Ministry of Education, Science and Sport - "HPC, VEGA"
- MISSIONS:
  - Dr. Rudi Pajntar (IJS); Institut Jožef Stefan, SRIP Factories of the Future - "Smart Cities" (TBC)
- CITIZEN SCIENCE:
  - mag Mateja Grego (MBP/NIB), National Institute of Biology, Marine Biology Station Piran, - "Plastic Pirates"
- EU AND LAC COOPERATION:
  - Daniel Kiapes (EC-DG R&I), DG Research & Innovation, Unit F1, International Cooperation - Europe, Americas and thematic coherence,
  - Marc Litvine (DG INTPA), Senior Expert -Head of Sector, DG INTPA,

Active Listeners: Ambassadors of LAC countries in Slovenia  
Representatives of LAC Research institutions

*The most pressing challenge, responsibility and opportunity for Europe and the world is keeping our planet and people healthy. This is the defining task of our time. The increase in global temperature, the depletion of natural resources and continued biodiversity loss, together with increasing forest fires, floods and other natural disasters undermine our security and prosperity. The European Green Deal is one of the responses. It will drive us forward to climate neutrality by 2050 and at the same time focus on adaptation. It will help protect and preserve the biodiversity, the natural heritage and the oceans that bring so much wealth to our Union. And it will do so by making our economy and industry more innovative, resource efficient, circular and competitive. The European Green Deal is a new European growth strategy. It will help create jobs and make Europe more competitive globally. Our new industrial strategy will be essential in making this happen as an enabler of both the ecological and digital transitions.*

*The digital transition is already having a significant impact on every aspect of our lives and careers. It opens up new opportunities to connect, communicate, solve societal issues and do business. The European Union has all the assets to make the most of this transformation. It must move first on the future technologies with the most potential, while ensuring the European approach is human, ethical and values-based.*

*We will discuss some of these aspects of Twin transition, Missions and Citizen Science, which are connected features of the renewed European Research Area and the EU policy priorities as well. And of course also highlight the opportunities for the strengthened cooperation between EU and LAC...*







## Friday, 23 April 2021

### 16.00–18.30 Session: **Horizon Europe: An opportunity for a strengthened cooperation between the EU and LAC -**

moderated by: mag Darija Valančič, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

(participation by registration only)

16:00 Welcome and introduction to Horizon Europe, mag. Darija Valančič, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (15 min)

16:15 Horizon Europe novelties, Petra Žagar, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (40 min)

16:55 5 min break

17:00 Green funding for research & innovation under Horizon Europe, Dr Thomas Ammerl, Bavarian Research Alliance GmbH (30 min)

17:30 Practical Examples of cooperation SI-LAC (45 min):

- TROPICSAFE - prof. Marina Dermastia, Scientific Counsellor, National Institute of Biology
- ARIADNEPlus connecting the Past to Open Up the Future  
Assist. Prof. Benjamin Štular, PhD, Institute of Archaeology, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), with Sheena Bassett (PIN Scrl), Prof. Franco Niccolucci, PhD (PIN Scrl), Prof. Julian Richards, PhD (UoY ADS)
- OLEUM - Milena Bučar Miklaviči, PhD, Head of the Laboratory of the Institute for Oliveculture, Science and Research Centre Koper

18:15 Q&A (15 min)

18:30 Final remarks / End

### Activities during the whole week:

- Video addresses by high representatives from countries of both regions on the challenges of EU-LAC cooperation.
- Documentary films addressing environmental science, anthropology topics from countries of both regions will be available on the virtual platform.

### Others:

- Presentation of books with the translation of Slovene and Paraguayan fairy tales (first printed in both countries in 2021), time tbc.

