



Press release – 29 November 2013

**University leaders and HE experts from Europe and Latin America
gather in Colombia for bi-regional conference**

More than 100 university leaders, heads of national university associations, higher education experts and policy makers from Europe and Latin America will gather in Cartagena, Colombia, from 2 to 4 December for a major bi-regional conference entitled “A Europe-Latin America Partnership for Innovative, Responsive and Sustainable Universities”.

The conference is the second major bi-regional university association conference taking place in the framework of the ALFA PUENTES project – a three-year project (2011-2014) involving over 20 university associations from Latin America (LA) and Europe. Coordinated by the European University Association (EUA), the project aims to boost regional development of higher education in Latin America and enhance EU-Latin America university partnership. A particular focus has also been the role of university associations from both continents in supporting higher education modernisation and internationalisation.

In the context of the project, which is co-funded by the European Union’s ALFA Programme, three concrete initiatives for convergence of the higher education systems in three Latin American sub-regions (Mercosur, the Andean Community and Central America), have been developed in the areas of quality assurance, degree harmonisation and staff and student mobility. In addition, the project organisers have been carrying out a survey of universities across Latin America to analyse trends and developments in Latin American higher education.

Detailed results from the survey, entitled ‘Transformations in Latin American Higher Education’, and the different project initiatives will be presented at the conference and will be discussed in the context of current debates on higher education and research development and internationalisation.

The event is split into four main sessions focusing on: data in higher education institutions and at system level; responding to knowledge and learning needs of today’s and tomorrow’s societies; international frameworks and instruments for diverse higher education systems; and internationalisation strategies and actions. It will conclude with a summary of the main conclusions of the discussions and the project activities and a look at future perspectives for EU-Latin America university collaboration.

More information about the event is available on this website:

<http://alfapuentes.org/cartagena2013/node/1124>

More information about the ALFA PUENTES project is available at: <http://alfapuentes.org/portal>

A full list of the ALFA PUENTES project partners from Europe and Latin America can be found here:

<http://alfapuentes.org/portal/node/30>

Ends.

For further information please contact

- Andrew Miller (European University Association): Tel: +32 2 743 11 59, + 32 473 748 785.
Email: andrew.miller@eua.be
- Javier Gaona (Association of Colombian Universities - ASCUN), Tel: + 57 315 348 00 15. Email
comunicaciones@ascun.org.co

The ALFA PUENTES project is carried out with co-funding of the European Union.

