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LA-CoNGA physics: a case study for open science education collaboration between Latin America and Europe

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In the era of information technology higher education and resarch is rapidly globalizing, links scientists institutions, society and industry are strengthened and discussions about adopting Open Science principles is on the table. Virtual Learning Comunities (VRLC) play a fundamental role in modernization and internationalization of higher education. VRLCs create new opportunities: inter-institutional links favoring internationalization and diversity, interconnected e-infrastructure, open data and increase scientific production. Moreover, VRLCs offer access to data and experimental facilities not available locally.

In Latin America, the communities of astrophysics, astronomers and particle physicists have been pioneers in establishing VRLCs, generating international collaborations based on virtual research environments.

LA-CoNGA physics (Latin American alliance for Capacity buildiNG in Advance physics) is a VRLC with Open Science education and Open Data are at the heart of its operations. LA-CoNGA physics community is composed by 11 universities (3 in Europe and 8 in Latin America) and 12 research and industrial partners developing an innovative e-learning platform distributed in 8 universities in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. LA-CoNGA Physics will offer open access tools, interconnected laboratories, and a flexible problem-solving-oriented curriculum in a network of academic and industrial partners. The project is co-founded by the Erasmus+ Capacity Building program.

This work describes the importance, results and challenges of these networks in the context of higher education and research in Latin America and the Caribbean and in the crisis context we are living today.

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