

Our Hub

The Canary Islands are an outermost region of the European Union, and a Spanish Autonomous Community. It is an archipelago known for its good climate, its beauty and its impressive tourist sector. The Canary Islands are located in the northwest of West Africa, a few kilometres west of the Maghreb coast, at the same latitude as Florida.

In particular, the Canary Islands are located in a strategic crossing among three continents: Europe, Africa and America. It is the best possible location to conduct and organize direct international collaboration and cooperation with West Africa and Latin American countries. Moreover, the Canary Islands have reputed scientific and academic institutions, very good infrastructures, great logistic capabilities and convenient telecommunication and transport connections, strengthened thanks to its tourism activity. The University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC), in the island of Gran Canaria, and its sister University of La Laguna (ULL), in the island of Tenerife are important Spanish universities. The Canary Islands Institute of Astrophysics (IAC), and its two observatories, are among the main worldwide facilities in the field, hosting the largest optical and infrared telescope in the World, GRANTECAN, in the island of La Palma, alongside with several one-of-a-kind instruments. The Canary Islands Oceanic Platform, in the Eastern coastline of Gran Canaria, is a unique and novel large research infrastructure. The very convenient conditions of the Canary Islands, alongside its competitive EU-approved fiscal regime, have attracted the interest of large cinema producers, with several blockbusters having already been filmed.

A solid foundation for international cooperation for development

Gran Canaria hosts since 2014 one of the six Humanitarian Response Depots of the United Nations World Food Programme, which adds to the Logistic Centre for Humanitarian Aid and to the Centre for Cooperation with Africa, both of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Spanish Government has also placed the headquarters of its main tool for public and economic diplomacy with Africa in Gran Canaria Casa Africa has the goal of strengthening the role of the Canary Islands as a political, economic and logistical platform to Africa in order to contribute to promote Hispano-African relations through dissemination, educational and cultural activities, and to support internationalization, mainly in the political-strategic area, of Spanish companies interested in acting in Africa.

The University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC) has long played a substantial role in international collaboration and cooperation for development. By means of its specialized University Centre for International Cooperation for Development (CUCID) promotes and participates in a large array of development cooperation activities. The University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC) also hosts UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs.

Much of the current cooperation activities at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC) are focused on health and education issues, with the University Institute for

Biomedical and Health Research (IUIBMS) playing a major role. A remarkable initiative has been the cooperation with the University of Zambeze, in Mozambique, to set up the Faculty of Health Sciences (FCS). A dedicated chair and group at IUIBS are devoted to medical technology research and innovation, with collaborations across the World.

Ours Vision

Applying the best international knowledge and capacities to the local and regional circumstances will make medical technology, training and education broadly available to cooperating regions. We foresee a network of such hubs across the World, which will leverage medical technology everywhere, providing new innovation, employment and business opportunities and, above all, better health and medical care options for every human being, as well as a framework for international collaboration and friendship.