

Four strategic directions

To develop this strategy, the Institute sets four basic directions:

1. Committing to Higher Education as a universal right and a public good

UNESCO-IESALC will revisit the policy implications of considering higher education both a public good and a universal right for access to and success in higher education.

2. Empowering institutions and higher education systems for a more responsive, inclusive, relevant, and efficient provision

UNESCO-IESALC will redouble efforts to provide capacity development opportunities for higher education leaders, administrators, and managers, from presidents to department chairs. The Institute will work with national and local governments to promote policy and regulatory environments conducive to a greater emphasis on institutional improvement.

3. Nurturing innovation in higher education

As a training provider, UNESCO-IESALC will be at the forefront of educational innovations in blended learning and other delivery modes. The Institute will document and analyze emerging trends in innovation, with emphasis on creating policy and regulatory environments prone to innovation, as well as in managerial and quality assurance innovations to empower institutions.

4. Re-envisioning internationalization

UNESCO-IESALC will continue to support the ratification process of the UNESCO Global and regional conventions on the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education and start acting as the secretariat for the Buenos Aires Convention. At global level, the Institute will monitor new developments in virtual and blended mobility and will provide tools and capacity building to create tailored-made opportunities of internationalization of systems, institutions and programmes that are inclusive and contextualise the local societal needs.

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International Institute
for Higher Education
in Latin America and
the Caribbean



Promoting equity and quality in higher education for all

UNESCO-IESALC: an increasingly relevant voice in the international arena of higher education

The UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) is the specialized institute of the United Nations system with the mission to contribute to the improvement of higher education in member States. The Institute organizes its activities around working programs that reflect the priority themes set biannually by its Governing Board and approved by the UNESCO General Conference. From research, capacity building, technical cooperation, and concerted advocacy, four major work programs contribute to fulfill its mission.

Mission

To promote the right to higher education through developing capacities for the formulation and implementation of quality, equitable, and inclusive higher education policies at regional, national and institutional levels in Latin America and the Caribbean Member States aiming at a global outreach.

Vision

To be an internationally recognized Institute for the promotion of higher education as a public good and a universal right, in keeping with the UN system of values.

Objectives

- Member States create and sustain policy, regulatory, and funding environments that are conducive to a quality and equitable provision of higher education.
- Higher education institutions have their capacities strengthened for innovative and more efficient delivery with a growing commitment to internationalization.
- Knowledge on higher education national and institutional policies is available as a global public good.

These three strategic objectives are put into practice through four pillars:

1. Actionable research and analysis

UNESCO-IESALC undertakes applied research on priority higher education issues and translates findings into policy-relevant evidence, training opportunities and into dissemination products. Research modalities include desk reviews, international surveys, country case studies, comparative analyses, and foresight research on higher education.



2. Technical Cooperation for capacity development

The reappraisal of higher education policies in a post-pandemic world requires sound and action-oriented technical support. UNESCO-IESALC's approach to technical support puts the emphasis on comprehensive activities that cover the identification of policy avenues and technically robust solutions to emerging policy issues, and a major contribution through coaching and training to capacity development.



3. Innovative capacity strengthening

In its role as a training provider for teachers and technical staff in the higher education sector, UNESCO-IESALC envisions the expansion of its offer to respond to the needs of decision-makers and professionals, both in government and in agencies, networks, and individual institutions. In this co-construction of shared knowledge, the Institute will be a hub for professional networks in the region and, more globally, in South-South cooperation in higher education.



4. Networked Advocacy and Knowledge Sharing

UNESCO-IESALC supports advocacy efforts through bilateral and multilateral partnerships with organizations, institutions, notably universities, and private companies committed to the SDGs and that share UNESCO's values and objectives.

As part of the Institute's knowledge sharing and communications strategy, it seeks to support communities of practice, enrich public debates about higher education through publications and other dissemination



products. The publication of the Institute's reports and the journal, *Higher Education and Society*, which has celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2021, are critical components.

