

CRES+5: Proposed agenda and methodology

Target

CRES+5 is an opportunity to examine the state of higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean, its achievements and pending challenges taking as a main starting point the 2018-2028 Action Plan adopted by the [Third Regional Conference on Higher Education](#) (CRES 2018) held in Cordoba, Argentina in June 2018. In addition, the implications that the COVID-19 pandemic has had for the region and its higher education systems should also be considered, as well as the [UNESCO Roadmap for Higher Education](#) that has been under development since the closing of the Third World Conference on Higher Education held in 2022.

Agenda

Since this is a follow-up meeting, it is suggested to link the agenda to the eight guidelines that shaped the [CRES 2018 Action Plan](#), which were as follows:

1. The strategic role of higher education in the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean
2. Higher education as part of the education system in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Higher education, cultural diversity and interculturality in Latin America
4. Higher education, internationalization and integration in Latin America and the Caribbean
5. The role of higher education in the face of social challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean
6. Scientific and technological research and innovation as drivers of human, social and economic development for Latin America and the Caribbean
7. One Hundred Years after the Cordoba Reform. Towards a new manifesto for Latin American higher education.
8. Teacher training.

It is proposed to submit for the consideration of the participants in the meeting some more topics that attempt to account for the most serious crisis that higher education has suffered globally, the specific problems of the region and, at the same time, the relevance of the discussion about the future of education promoted by UNESCO. These would be:

- Governance, autonomy and financing of higher education (in CRES 2018 this topic was subsumed under guideline 1);
- The welfare and participation of the members of the university community;
- Gender and higher education, which is proposed as a cross-cutting theme to all the others;
- The impacts of the pandemic and the exit from the crisis in higher education, also as a cross-cutting theme; and
- Futures for higher education in the region.

At the preparatory meeting in Cordoba, other topics may be added as a result of the discussions held there.

Methodology

For this follow-up exercise to be fruitful, we propose a methodology that is broadly participatory and, at the same time, based as much as possible on evidence. It is proposed, in this sense:

1. Create a working group for each of the guidelines of the thematic axes, to which each organization participating in the preparatory meeting may bring a representative if it wishes. Each working group will choose its own chair and secretary. The work of each working group will be informed by:
 - the analyses that each participating organization has carried out;
 - the follow-up report to be prepared by UNESCO IESALC compiling data from the different countries; and
 - the survey to a representative sample of organizations and institutions on the progress and challenges in each guideline to be launched by UNESCO IESALC.
 - The initial questions for each working group will be:
 - a. What progress can be documented against the objectives and indicators set by the 2018 CRES Action Plan?
 - b. What priorities should be recommended for the period 2023-2028?
 - c. What additional recommendations can be offered to expedite progress on the Action Plan towards 2028?
 - Each working group will present its reports at CRES+5 in sessions open to all participants.

Hold two more preparatory meetings prior to CRES+5:

1. May within the framework of the X Meeting of Networks of Universities and Councils of Rectors (to be confirmed), with the objective of promoting debate exclusively among higher education institutions in the region, and
 2. September with the objective of presenting a first assessment of the progress made and the pending challenges to the participants in the preparatory meeting in Córdoba.
 3. In addition, each working group may decide if it wishes to meet additionally in person.
3. Facilitate the creation of a working group or groups to specifically encourage the participation of Caribbean countries, if so desired and sponsored by the countries themselves.
 4. CRES+5 will result in a consensus statement highlighting progress on the Action Plan and remaining challenges, while offering guidelines and recommendations for accelerating progress and, if necessary, addressing new issues that have emerged over the past five years or are foreseeable in the coming years.