

## CRES+5 Call for the constitution of working groups

### Context

The [Regional Conference on Higher Education](#) (CRES) held in Córdoba (Argentina) in June 2018 approved a Declaration and an ambitious work agenda 2018-2028. It was also agreed that a follow-up conference would be held five years later. Thanks to the support of the Brazilian Government, this conference, called [CRES+5](#), will be held in March 2024 in Brasilia (Brazil).

CRES+5 will be an opportunity to review the achievements made in higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean and, at the same time, to establish priorities for the next Regional Conference on Higher Education to be held in 2028.

### Objectives of the working groups

At the preparatory meeting of CRES+ 5 held in March 2023 also in Córdoba (Argentina), the constitution of working groups was approved. These working groups have the threefold objective of:

- take stock of achievements and pending challenges, based on the contributions of all networks, organizations and institutions of higher education that send them;
- promote a regional consensus on priorities for the development of higher education in the region over the next five years; and
- contribute to a Final Declaration of CRES+5.

### Configuring workgroups

Based on the discussions held at the preparatory meeting in Cordoba (Argentina) and the additional proposals of the Government of Brazil, the following working groups will be established:

1. Higher education as part of the education **system** in Latin America.
2. Higher education, cultural diversity and **interculturality** in Latin America.
3. Higher education, **internationalization and integration** in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. The role of higher education in the face of social challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Scientific **and technological research** and innovation as engines of human, social and economic development for Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. The strategic role of higher education in the **sustainable development** of Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. Teacher training and working and living conditions of higher education stakeholders.
8. The impact of COVID on higher education.
9. Inclusion, diversity and the role of women in higher education.
10. Financing and governance of higher education
11. The **autonomy** of higher education institutions.
12. The development and future of higher education in the **Caribbean**.

### Suggested work agenda

The modality of work will preferably be virtual. The sources to be used will be:

- the analyses that each participating organisation has carried out that will be presented and discussed in the group;
- the discussions held;
- the follow-up report prepared by UNESCO IESALC compiling data from different countries; and
- the survey of a representative sample of organizations and institutions on the progress and challenges in each guideline to be launched by UNESCO IESALC.

An indicative timetable is presented below.

Activity	Dates	Result
Application of candidatures to the working groups	Until <b>July 31, 2023</b>	Appointment of two members of each working group by UNESCO IESALC and two more by the Government of Brazil.
Constitution of the group and approval of the thematic work agenda, including distribution of tasks among the participants for the drafting of the basic document.	Throughout the month of <b>August 2023</b> .	Publication of the thematic agenda of work on the web. Open call for external contributions.
Open discussion of the agenda and first results.	Hybrid meeting (face-to-face and virtual) in Puebla (Mexico). <b>5-6 September 2023</b> .	Hybrid debate to feed the drafting of the basic documents.
Drafting and internal discussion of the basic document.	Between September 2023 and January 2024. To be published before <b>January 21, 2024</b> .	Finalization of the draft of the basic document of each group.
Presentation, discussion and adoption of the core document	During CRES+5, <b>13-14 March 2024</b> .	Adoption by acclamation of the core document.

### Call for participation

Each working group will have four participants, two of whom will be appointed by the Government of Brazil and the other two by UNESCO IESALC.

In this sense, to cover exclusively the two places of each group assigned to UNESCO, IESALC calls on networks, organizations and institutions of higher education in the region to nominate their representatives to these working groups. In particular, the following are invited:

- Networks and associations of universities in the region
- National Councils of Rectors and Universities
- Quality assurance agencies
- Teaching and non-teaching staff unions
- Student organizations



The legal representative of the network, organization or association must present the candidacy of a maximum of two representatives indicating the preference of the working groups in which they want to participate. Individual applications will not be accepted.

The form to submit the candidatures is [here](#).

The deadline for nominations is **31 July 2023**.

UNESCO IESALC will ensure that, as a whole, the working groups exhibit the maximum representativeness of countries in the region, with gender balance and participation of minorities and indigenous peoples, as well as the maximum variety of actors in higher education.