



**EDUCACIÓN**  
SECRETARÍA DE EDUCACIÓN PÚBLICA

**BUAP**

ENLACES

ESPACIO LATINOAMERICANO  
Y CARIBEÑO DE EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR



**25**  
AÑOS  
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educación superior  
para todas las personas

# SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING TOWARDS CRES+5 (2024)

Puebla, Mexico | September 5 and 6, 2023



**CRES+5**  
encuentro  
preparatorio

Benemérita Universidad  
Autónoma de Puebla – México  
5 y 6 de septiembre de 2023

**CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA**

Puebla, Mexico | September 5 and 6, 2023

## Background

As a prelude to the [World Conference on Higher Education in the Twenty-first Century: Vision and Action](#) (WHEC, 1998), UNESCO agreed to hold five regional preparatory conferences in Havana (November 1996), Dakar (April 1997), Tokyo (July 1997), Palermo (September 1997) and Beirut (March 1998). These regional conferences are understood as a prelude – of a consultative nature – to the world conferences on higher education, a practice that has been shared by the different regions ever since.

- **First Regional Conference on Higher Education – CRES 1996**

The Havana preparatory meeting (hereinafter CRES 1996) was led by the Regional Centre for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, now the [UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (hereinafter UNESCO-IESALC). This meeting debated new visions of higher education that contrasted with the dominant market and economic rationalism of the time. It also emphasized the importance of the processes of internationalization of higher education in a globalizing context, stressing the need for Latin America to commit to integration based on the convergence of its own regional identity. The conclusions and commitments of this meeting were embodied in the [CRES 1996 Declaration](#) and the [1996 Action Plan](#).

CRES 1996 represented a turning point, a milestone in the development of higher education in the Region, as it succeeded, among other things: (a) to raise a broad debate on the issue of higher education, positioning it on the Latin American and Caribbean agenda, and at the same time it constituted a valuable contribution to the WHEC 1998; (b) to root the "culture of quality" and detonate processes of quality assurance and accreditation on the Latin American agenda; and (c) to urge interregional cooperation in response to a liberalizing context that was already showing signs of new initiatives (MERCOSUR 1991), Association of Caribbean States (1994), among others. The resounding success of CRES 1996 led to the successive editions of this meeting, making it today the most important event in the area of higher education in the region.

A follow-up meeting to WHEC 1998 (Paris, 26-27 June 2003) evaluated the [Framework for Priority Action](#) agreed at WHEC 1998 and issued new recommendations [WHEC 1998+5](#). As a contribution, UNESCO IESALC produced a report entitled "[Reform and innovations in Higher Education in some Latin American and Caribbean countries, 1998 – 2003](#)". This report concludes that after five years since 1998, several important changes have taken place in regional higher education oriented towards its modernization, mainly in the areas of quality assurance and technological appropriation, as well as a greater awareness of the academic communities regarding the role that higher education should play in the transformation of societies.

- **Second Regional Conference on Higher Education – CRES 2008**

The second edition of the Regional Conference on Higher Education (hereafter CRES 2008) was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 4-6 June 2008. The event was once again convened and led by UNESCO IESALC, with the support of the Colombian Ministry of National Education.

CRES 2008 was sponsored by the Ministry of Education of Brazil, the Ministry of National Education of Colombia, the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sport of Spain, the Secretariat of Public Education of Mexico, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, and the Ministry of Popular Power for University Education of the Bolivarian Government of Venezuela. CRES 2008 was sponsored by Capes and CNPQ of Brazil; the Colombian Association of Universities, Colciencias, and the Convenio Andrés Bello of Colombia; the Spanish Agency

for International Cooperation for Development and the Centro Extremeño de Estudios y Cooperación con Iberoamérica of the Kingdom of Spain.

CRES 2008 reaffirmed the principle that "higher education is a public good, a social and universal right, and that it has a strategic role to play in the sustainable development processes of the countries of the Region".

The reflections and commitments of CRES 2008 were embodied in the [Declaration](#) and [Plan of Action](#) that served as tools for the reconfiguration of regional higher education, reformulating it under new terms, and outlining a horizon of meaning in which its leading figures share values that are already the hallmark of the event (education as a public good, human right and duty of the State, cooperation in solidarity, equality with equity, among others). The Declaration of the Third Meeting of University Networks and Councils of Rectors of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima, Peru, was part of the CRES 2008, and was based on the construction of the [Latin American and Caribbean Space for Higher Education](#).

From 5 to 8 July 2009, UNESCO convened the States Parties to the [Second World Higher Education Conference "The New Dynamics of Higher Education and Research for Social Change and Development"](#). Its leading figures reaffirmed the status of higher education as "a public good and a strategic imperative for all levels of education, and as a foundation for research, innovation and creativity, higher education must be the responsibility of and financially supported by all governments".

- **Third Regional Conference on Higher Education – CRES 2018**

The third edition of the Regional Conference on Higher Education (hereafter CRES 2018) took place in Cordoba, Argentina, from 10 to 15 June 2018. CRES 2018 was held in the framework of the first centenary of the 1918 University Reform, which took place in the city of Cordoba. The participants of the CRES 2018 experienced the celebrations planned by the city on the occasion of the Centenary of the Manifiesto Liminar, and sealed the commitment and the urgent decision to build a future of prosperity and good living for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the [Declaration](#) and [Plan of Action 2018-2028](#).

A new edition of the [World Higher Education Conference](#) held in Barcelona, Spain (hereinafter, WHEC 2022) made it possible to reflect on old concepts and capture their resonances, as well as to introduce new ones and interconnect them without breaking the dialectic between past and future, in an attempt to build a common vision of the future, a tool that UNESCO considers indispensable to strengthen international cooperation in the field of higher education. This opportunity was particularly interesting because the COVID-19 pandemic has meant a radical shift that opens up new scenarios, accelerates trends, and alters previous projections of the future.

UNESCO, aware of the need for higher education to be well informed of the expectations of the outside world in order to adopt the necessary anticipatory role to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world, is convening a [follow-up meeting](#) to CRES 2018 to be held in Brasilia (13-15 March 2024).

- **Third Regional Conference on Higher Education ('Follow-Up') – CRES 2018+5**

Prior to the follow-up to CRES 2018 in Brasilia on 13-15 March 2024, UNESCO IESALC considered it appropriate to hold a consultation in the city of Cordoba, Argentina, on 22-23 March 2023 with a view to approving the agenda of CRES+5, rethinking its thematic axes and reaching a consensus on the mainstreaming of the COVID-19 pandemic in all of them.

After the successful conclusion of the consultation held in Córdoba, the preparatory meeting for CRES+5 will be held at the [Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla](#) (BUAP)<sup>1</sup>, Puebla<sup>2</sup>, Mexico, on 5-6 September 2023. This meeting constitutes a new instance of dialogue and interlocation between the actors of regional higher education that seeks an active participation in the agenda of the CRES+5, as well as a collective reflection on the conclusions of the Third World Higher Education Conference - [Roadmap](#) (Barcelona, Spain, 2022) that will allow for the reconfiguration of the [CRES Action Plan 2018-2028](#) in new terms, particularly in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the 7 thematic axes debated during CRES 2018, as well as on the new thematic axes developed by UNESCO IESALC at the request of the participants in the Córdoba meeting (March 2023) and which have subsequently been extended to 12 with the guidance of the Brazilian government.

UNESCO IESALC finds it necessary to hold this mid-term meeting (CRES+5) in order to monitor the impact of emerging issues on the global education agenda (e.g., COVID-19, de-globalization, new international geopolitics, disruptive technologies such as ChatGPT, etc.) and to reflect this impact in the documents discussed in each of the different thematic axes addressed at CRES 2018. Prior to their presentation at the CRES+5, as previous socialization mechanisms, the BUAP provides the appropriate space to host and sponsor this regional consultation.

Table # 1 - Thematic axes developed at CRES 2018	
<b>AXIS 1:</b>	<a href="#">Higher education as part of the education system in Latin America and the Caribbean</a>
<b>AXIS 2:</b>	<a href="#">Higher education, cultural diversity and interculturality in Latin America</a>
<b>AXIS 3:</b>	<a href="#">Higher education, internationalization and integration in Latin America and the Caribbean</a>
<b>AXIS 4:</b>	<a href="#">Role of higher education in the face of social challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean</a>
<b>AXIS 5:</b>	<a href="#">Scientific and technological research and innovation as engines of human, social and economic development for Latin America and the Caribbean</a>
<b>AXIS 6:</b>	<a href="#">Strategic role of higher education in the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean</a>
<b>AXIS 7:</b>	Decent work and the living conditions of higher education stakeholders <b>(new)</b>
<b>AXIS 8:</b>	The impact of COVID in higher Education <b>(new)</b>
<b>AXIS 9:</b>	Inclusion, diversity and the role of women in higher education <b>(new)</b>
<b>AXIS 10:</b>	Financing and governance in Higher Education <b>(new)</b>
<b>AXIS 11:</b>	Autonomy of higher education institutions <b>(new)</b>

<sup>1</sup> UNESCO International Literacy Prize in 2020

<sup>2</sup> Member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network since 2015

**AXIS 12.1** The futures of higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean **(new)**

**AXIS 12.2** Challenges for the future of higher education in the Caribbean **(new)**

## Objectives

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- Monitoring the progress achieved by the region under each of the thematic axes (12) which form the backbone of the CRES+5 agenda.
- Contribute to prioritizing the agendas in each of the thematic axes with a view to 2028;
- Incorporate cross-cutting issues into the debates, such as those addressed in the [UNESCO Roadmap for Higher Education](#); and
- Advance discussions on the priority themes to be debated at CRES+5 in Brasilia in March 2024.

## Participants

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- Government representatives
- Councils and/or Associations of Rectors of Latin America and the Caribbean
- University networks linked to higher education as an area of study
- Higher Education Quality Assurance Agencies
- Non-governmental organisations or groups formally established in the region that act with social commitment in the innovation and transformation of higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Regional and international organisations linked to higher education
- Teaching and non-teaching staff unions
- Student organisations

**Expected capacity:** 200-250 people

## Agenda

The Puebla preparatory meeting for CRES+5 will be held in the BUAP facilities.

**Tuesday, September 5, 2023**

**Venue: Edificio Carolino - C. 4 Sur 104, Centro histórico de Puebla, 72000 Puebla**

<b>08:30 – 09:30</b>	<p><b>REGISTRATION</b></p>
<b>09:30 – 10:00</b>	<p><b>OPENING</b></p> <p><b>Baroque Hall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intervention by the Rector of BUAP, <b>Dr. María Lilia Cedillo Ramírez</b></li> <li>• Intervention by Representative of the University Council of BUAP/Mexico, <b>Samuel Rogelio Martínez Carretero</b></li> <li>• Intervention by the Under-Secretary for Higher Education, <b>Dr. Luciano Concheiro Bórquez</b></li> <li>• intervention by the Director of International Relations of the Brazilian Ministry of Education – CAPES, <b>Dr. Rui Oppermann</b></li> <li>• Intervention by the Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, <b>Dr. Francesc Pedró</b></li> <li>• Official Group Portrait</li> </ul>
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	<p><b>PLENARY</b></p> <p><b>Baroque Hall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transforming higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In charge of:</b> Dr. Luciano Concheiro Bórquez, Under-Secretary for Higher Education - Mexican Secretary of Public Education</p>
<b>10:30 – 12:15</b>	<p><b>PLENARY</b></p> <p><b>Baroque Hall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentations of the Thematic Groups (10' x Thematic Axis).</b> Introduction of the topics to be addressed in each thematic group</li> </ul> <p><b>In charge of:</b> Thematic coordinator of each thematic group</p>
<b>12:15 – 14:00</b>	<p><b>LUNCH</b></p> <p><b>Tercer Patio</b> Cultural programme by the Ballet Folklórico BUAP-CCU</p>
<b>14:00 – 14:15</b>	<p><b>PLENARY</b></p> <p><b>Baroque Hall</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Guidance for group dynamics under Working Groups</b></li> </ul> <p>In charge of: <b>Dr. Francesc Pedró</b>, Director UNESCO IESALC</p>	
<b>14:15– 15:30</b>	<b>WORKING TABLES BY THEMATIC AREAS</b>	
	<b>HALL GREEN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Axis 1 - Higher education as part of the education system in Latin America</b> Thematic Group Coordinator</li> </ul>
	<b>HALL ANNEX</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Axis 2 - Higher education, cultural diversity and interculturality in Latin America</b> Thematic Group Coordinator</li> </ul>
	<b>HALL PARANINFO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Axis 3 - Higher education, internationalisation and regional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean</b> Thematic Group Coordinator</li> </ul>
<b>15:30 – 15:45</b>	<b>BREAK (COFFEE / TEA)</b> <b>Third patio</b>	
<b>15:45 – 17:00</b>	<b>CONTINUATION OF THE THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS</b>	
	<b>HALL PARANINFO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Axis 4 – The role of higher education in the face of social challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean</b> Thematic Group Coordinator</li> </ul>
	<b>HALL GREEN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Axis 5 - Scientific and technological research and innovation as an engine of human, social and economic development for Latin America and the Caribbean</b> Thematic Group Coordinator</li> </ul>
	<b>HALL ANNEX</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Axis 6 - The strategic role of higher education in sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean</b> Thematic Group Coordinator</li> </ul>
<b>17:00 – 19:00</b>	<b>BREAK</b> <b>Third patio</b> Cultural programme by the BUAP-CCU Contemporary Dance Company	
<b>19:00 - 21:00</b>	<b>DINNER</b> <b>Carolino's Gym</b> Cultural programme by the BUAP-CCU Symphonic Choir	

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Venue: Complejo Cultural Universitario BUAP, Atlixcáyotl 2299, Reserva Territorial Atlixcáyotl, 72810 Puebla

09:00 - 9:30

**PLENARY**

Theatre CCU

- **The proposed Roadmap for Higher Education "Beyond the Boundaries": An International Perspective on Higher Education**

In charge of: Director of UNESCO-IESALC, Dr. Francesc Pedró

9:30 – 10:45

**CONTINUATION OF THE THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS**

**CONVENTION  
CENTRE HALL  
# 1**

- **Axis 7** - Decent work and the living conditions of higher education stakeholders  
Thematic Group Coordinator

**CONVENTION  
CENTRE HALL  
# 2**

- **Axis 8** - **COVID-19's impact on higher education**  
Thematic Group Coordinator

**CONVENTION  
CENTRE HALL  
# 3**

- **Axis 9** - **Inclusion, diversity and the role of women in higher education**  
Thematic Group Coordinator

**CONVENTION  
CENTRE HALL  
# 4**

- **Axis 12.1** - **The futures of higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean**  
Thematic Group Coordinator

10:45- 11:00

**BREAK (COFFEE / TEA)**

Terrace of the Convention Centre

11:00 – 12:15

**CONTINUATION OF THE THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS**

**CONVENTION  
CENTRE HALL  
# 1**

- **Axis 10** - **Financing and governance**  
Thematic Group Coordinator

**CONVENTION  
CENTRE HALL  
# 2**

- **Axis 11** - **The autonomy of higher education institutions**  
Thematic Group Coordinator

**CONVENTION  
CENTRE HALL  
# 3**

- **Axis 12.2** - **Challenges for the future of higher education in the Caribbean**  
Thematic Group Coordinator



<p><b>12:15 - 14:15</b></p>	<p><b>LUNCH</b></p> <p><b>Terraza del Centro de Convenciones</b></p> <p>Cultural Programme by the CUAP-CCU Theatre Company</p>
<p><b>14:15 - 15:30</b></p>	<p><b>PLENARY</b></p> <p><b>Theatre CCU</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation (10')</b> on the reflections made and preliminary conclusions by thematic axis.</li> <li>• <b>Critical reflection on the areas/goals of the CRES Action Plan 2018-2028 that need to be prioritized and accelerated in implementation</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In charge of:</b> Rapporteurs for each thematic axis</p>
<p><b>15:30 - 16:20</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSING</b></p> <p><b>Theatre CCU</b></p> <p><b>Conclusions, next steps and closing</b></p> <p><b>In charge of:</b> - Director of International Relations of of the Brazilian Ministry of Education, Dr. Rui Oppermann - UNESCO IESALC Director, <b>Dr. Francesc Pedró</b></p>
<p><b>16:20 - 16:40</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSING CONCERT</b></p> <p><b>Theatre CCU</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Huapango, José Pablo Moncayo</i></li> <li>• <i>Danzón No.2, Arturo Márquez</i></li> </ul> <p>BUAP-CCU Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Lizzi Cenicerros</p>
<p><b>16:40 - 17:00</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSING GATHERING</b></p> <p><b>Terrace of the Convention Centre</b></p>