

# First regional launch of the *Higher Education Policy Observatory*: Latin America and the Caribbean

Online webinar  
13/12/2023

## Details

Date: 13 December 2023  
Location: online via Zoom  
Time: 11 am, Caracas time  
Language: English and Spanish (interpretation available)

## Background

The Higher Education (HE) Policy Observatory is an initiative of the Higher Education Policy Hub of UNESCO IESALC. The Policy Hub is a one-stop shop for HE policymakers, and any other relevant stakeholders working with or interested in HE policy, to access ready-to-use information and analysis on higher education systems and policy globally. It includes a series of short publications (Policy Briefs and Policy Insights), podcasts (Policy Talks), events (Policy Network and Policy Forum) and international databases on higher education (Policy Observatory).

The HE Policy Observatory is an interactive online platform developed by UNESCO IESALC gathering information and data on HE systems and policies worldwide. It showcases primary information collected by IESALC on HE policies and governance systems in nearly 150 countries through 40 indicators drawn from a battery of 150 variables.

The platform allows users, essentially policymakers and researchers, to:

- Visualize key information about HE systems and policies in individual countries,
- Compare different HE systems on each indicator in a free and user-friendly way,
- Access global and regional overviews on specific indicators through maps and graphs.

The Policy Observatory is the first online platform that centralizes and compares key legislative information on HE systems across the world in a single place. In its second phase, scheduled for the first half of 2024, the HE Policy Observatory will also integrate the main statistical information collected on HE systems internationally.

## Objectives

The event aims to:

- Introduce the HE Policy Observatory to policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders interested in HE policy and systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, and beyond.
- Discuss the importance of data and evidence to drive informed policies and the improvement of higher education systems.

- Reflect on the new opportunities offered by the HE Policy Observatory for policymaking and research.
- Discuss the next steps in generating evidence and data to expand our collective knowledge base, and using it to improve higher education worldwide (including the collection of new indicators or the building of new international collaborations).

## Agenda

Time	Activity	Details
10'	Introduction	Welcome and introduction by Francesc Pedró, Director, UNESCO IESALC
10'	HE Policy Observatory presentation	Overview of the HE Policy Observatory: general description of its main features and demo.
20'	Guest discussion	<p>Conversation with guest speakers on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The importance of evidence in HE policymaking and the value the HE Policy Observatory can bring to their work as high-level policymakers from Latin America and the Caribbean</li> <li>- The ideal next steps for the collection and use of evidence to inform HE policy and implications for future developments of the HE Policy Observatory</li> </ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denise Pires De Carvalho, Secretary of Higher Education at the Ministry of Education of the Federative Republic of Brazil</li> <li>• Dameon Black, Executive Director at Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission</li> <li>• Gonzalo Baroni Boces, National Director of Education at the Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay</li> </ul>
15'	Q&A session	Interactive question and answer session with webinar participants (through the chat), guest speakers and IESALC
5'	Closing remarks	End of the webinar, reminder of where the resources can be found and next steps.