

# EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Overview

The Education Program at the Inter-American Dialogue promotes the quality and relevance of education in Latin America and the Caribbean, bringing it to the forefront of the education policy agenda. Program research and advocacy work on key areas including education quality, early childhood development, skills development, teacher policy and English language learning has influenced discourse in the region and contributed to the understanding of critical issues in education.

### **Featured Projects**

#### **Early Childhood Development**

Since 2017, the Program's work has been guided by the "Regional Agenda on Early Childhood Development." Through the Agenda, the Program has led the creation of a regional monitoring network on early childhood indicators (REMDI), the research and production of over two dozen policy reports in collaboration with civil society organizations, and the creation of a regional network-of-networks (Somos Crianza) to raise awareness and commitment from various sectors towards the ECD policy agenda.

#### **Teacher Quality**

In 2019, the Program launched the Latin American Coalition for Excellence in Teaching, a network and platform which brings together academics, current and former ministry officials, civil society leaders, and teachers to develop an agenda aimed at respecting teachers as professionals through high-quality education and training, dignified working conditions and visionary leadership. Since its founding, the Coalition has established chapters in nearly half a dozen countries to work directly with policymakers and civil society in strengthening teacher policies.

#### **English Language Learning (ELL)**

The Program has published three regional and three country-level reports focused on ELL policies, bottlenecks and best practices, with a particular focus on teacher policies and English learning for employment, especially in the tourism and BPO sectors. In collaboration with national education ministries, the Program has hosted multiple regional fora which convene representatives from the region's major public ELL programs to share experiences and explore opportunities for collaboration.

#### **Technology and Innovation in Education**

To better understand the bottlenecks, opportunities and challenges of technology in education, the Program convened a Working Group on Technology and Innovation in Education, bringing together public and private sector leaders for conversations on the most significant gaps. From this initial Working Group, the Program launched an ambitious work program focused on addressing key challenges such as expanding educational connectivity, reforming and expanding higher education access and programming and supporting the development of tools to evaluate and strengthen teacher digital competencies.

#### **Skills Development**

The Program promotes the adoption of secondary and post-secondary education models that are market-driven, adapt to and integrate new technologies, and engage closely with employers through skills development. The Program's reports and events analyze topics including apprenticeships, technical education and socioemotional skills with the goal of bridging the gap between skills students learn through the education system and the skills that the labor market demands.

#### **Migrant and Refugee Children and Adolescents in the Americas**

Migrant children and adolescents are "doubly" vulnerable due to their age and migratory status. The Program focuses on the rights of migrant children and adolescents across the Americas as a cross-border issue. With the support of strategic allies, the Program has brought visibility to the issue of migrant children through building regional consensus around the most effective mechanisms to safeguard migrant children's rights through a working group and a civil society task force.

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