

Foreword

Higher education plays a central role in development and is an important issue for the ongoing work of the OECD Development Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This report falls within that framework and was drawn up as a result of an agreement between the *Centro Superior para la Enseñanza Virtual* (CSEV) and the OECD Development Centre. The CSEV played a key role in the production of the report, both through its financial contribution as well as through its intellectual support. This reflects the commitment of both the CSEV and the OECD Development Centre to expanding knowledge about higher education and the opportunities for development brought about by new technologies.

The purpose of this report is to better understand the main challenges faced by higher education in Latin America, to analyse how information and communication technologies are being incorporated into higher education, how they are transforming it, how they can have an impact in the region. The report attempts to shed some light on these areas by providing new and original information stemming from a survey of Latin American higher education institutions and from a series of interviews with regional experts.

Acknowledgements

This report was drawn up by the OECD Development Centre as a result of an agreement with the *Centro Superior para la Enseñanza Virtual (CSEV)*, based in Spain.

The report was co-ordinated by Juan Vazquez Zamora, an economist at the Americas Desk of the OECD Development Centre, and was supervised by Christian Daude, former Head of the Americas Desk. The report was written by Juan Vazquez Zamora, with the exception of Annex A, written by Ricardo Cuenca, an external consultant to the OECD who is a researcher at the Institute for Peruvian Studies.

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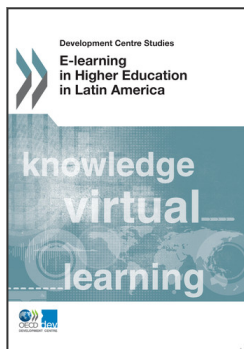
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One of the original contributions of this report is the evidence it provides resulting from the survey of universities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Therefore, a particularly relevant mention goes to the 34 universities that took the time and effort to respond to the questionnaire, especially those in charge of actually responding to it. The list of universities ordered by country is the following. From Argentina: Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA XXI), Universidad de Mendoza, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, and Universidad Nacional de Quilmes; from Brazil: CEDERJ, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, and Universidade Rio Grande do Sul; from Chile: Universidad Andrés Bello and Universidad Católica de Valparaíso; from Colombia: Universidad Escuela de Administración, Finanzas y Tecnología (EAFIT), Universidad Nacional Abierta y a Distancia, Universidad Santo Tomás, and Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira; from Costa Rica: Universidad de Costa Rica and Universidad Técnica Nacional de Costa Rica; from Ecuador: Escuela Politécnica del Ejército, Universidad Politécnica Salesiana, and Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja; from Mexico: Centro Interamericano de Estudios de Seguridad Social, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Universidad de Guadalajara (Sistema de Universidad Virtual) and UNAM; from Panama: Universidad de Panamá and Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá; from Paraguay: Universidad de Villarrica; from Peru: Pontificia

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