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**2022-2025 WORK PLAN**

**OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (CIE)**

**ANNEX V**

**SYSTEMIC APPROACH FOR BUILDING RESILIENT EDUCATION SYSTEMS**

**PROGRAM: DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES STRENGTHENED THROUGH EDUCATION AND POLICY DIALOGUE**

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**Program: Democratic principles strengthened through Education and policy dialogue**

## **Introduction**

In today’s fast-paced world characterized by ever changing social, political, and technological landscapes, the importance of staying well-informed is more crucial than ever. The challenges emanating from mis-information campaigns fueled by the internet have in many ways contributed to the erosion of established social norms and practices critical to maintaining balanced societies where respect for the rule of law, human rights, and democratic values remain entrenched.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed concerning challenges to democratic norms and practices across the Americas. Many have cited the decline of civic education in our schools as one of the contributors to this phenomenon. It is therefore important to promote a culture of engagement in the democratic process in our schools so that our young people are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to be informed, engaged, and responsible citizens. There is an imperative to empower individuals to actively participate in shaping the future of their communities, countries, and by extension the world that they want.

In order to do so we must foment a culture which is, inter alia, geared towards the following: promoting and facilitating informed citizenship; strengthening transparency and accountability; fostering active citizenship; supporting digital literacy; encouraging healthy discourse on contemporary challenges; preventing the rise of authoritarianism; and promoting social cohesion.

## **Background and justification**

To create this culture of engagement, significant progress has been made within the context of the OAS to promote a more engaged, socially responsible citizenry.

The Inter-American Democratic Charter, adopted in 2001, is a key Inter-American instrument which enshrines education as a pathway for more effective democratic participation – declaring education “an effective way to promote citizens’ awareness concerning their own countries and thereby achieve meaningful participation in the decision-making process”. More recently, Member States have recognized education’s role in advancing sustainable democratic participation thru several resolutions and instruments[[1]](#footnote-2).

At the 53rd Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly, under the aegis of AG/RES. 3004 (LIII-O/23), a resolution on strengthening democracy, Member States resolved to follow-up on the Inter-American Democratic Charter and re-examine the role of education in promoting democratic participation.

## **Objective and Goal**

To underscore the role of education as the foundation for informed and active democratic participation, the intent is to increase institutional and, human resource capacities to provide an enabling environment for the development of “skills for a better, citizenship.”

Engagement with Ministries of Education, policymakers, teachers, and students to cultivate a new generation of engaged and informed citizens who are dedicated to the democratic ideals that unite the region.

## **Results and expected outcomes**

*1. Create hub on Education for Democratic Participation in the Americas*

A regional virtual platform for dialogue, analysis, and disseminating information on policies and programs in Education for Democratic Participation.

*2. Design and deliver training for teachers on education for strengthened democratic participation and regional integration.*

Designed to deliver and develop a curriculum that strengthens education for democratic participation by training policy makers, teachers, and teacher trainers to encourage and deepen democratic discourse in classrooms.

*3. Model Curriculum development to foster youth democratic participation and regional integration through schools.*

Developing robust model curricula allows for implementing and promoting of multilateral initiatives to foster knowledge exchange, good practices, and technical cooperation to develop and strengthen the capacities of Member States. Once developed, such curricula could be adapted to each country’s needs within the framework of the Inter-American Education Agenda (IEA).

*4. Implement a student engagement program for democratic participation*

Based on the experience and lessons learned from “Youth Parliament Mercosur” with the Program “The school that we want”, this program will include gender, human rights, citizen participation, regional integration, inclusive education, youth, and work. Recognizing the importance of educational systems providing youth with the tools and spaces for democratic participation to become more informed, active citizens in the future, this proposal.

*5: Management and Monitoring of the Project*

Elaboration of pre-post tests for following up on participants trained in the project. Develop tools for data collection and information for monitoring report, and prepare progress reports and final report as requested by donor.

**Contact official**

Each Ministry is requested to send the information regarding designated officials to:

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1. VIII Summits of the Americas (2018); X and XI Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education (2019; 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)