

## **Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture**

The Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture, is an international organization whose members are the Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking nations of the Americas and Europe and Equatorial Guinea in Africa. Its purpose is to promote intergovernmental cooperation among its member nations which will aid the planning and development of regional projects in education, science, technology and the arts. OEI members include Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela. Its General Secretariat is located in Madrid, with regional offices in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. Financing of OEI operations and programs is derived from obligatory quotas and voluntary contributions from the governments of member nations and private cultural and educational institutions and foundations interested in the improvement of the quality of education and technological, scientific and cultural development.

**Brief History** The OEI was founded in 1949 as an international agency, the Office of Latin American Education, as a result of the first Latin American Education Congress in Madrid. In 1954 the second congress was held in Quito, where it was decided that the OEI would become an intergovernmental organization of sovereign states. On March 15, 1957, at the third Education Congress in Santo Domingo, the first statutes of the OEI became effective until 1985. In 1979, the fourth congress met in Madrid; in 1983 the fifth congress took place in Lima. In May, 1985 an extraordinary meeting of the congress was held in Bogotá, where it was decided to change the name of the OEI to its present name (keeping its acronyms and extending its objectives); the Latin American Education Congress became the General Assembly. At the December 1985 directive council meeting in Panama, its members agreed to the present statutes of the OEI, replacing the 1957 text and approving the organization's regulations. Since the 1991 Ibero-American Summit in Guadalajara, the OEI has promoted conferences of ministers of education and the execution of the educative, scientific and cultural programs delegated to it.

**Objectives** To contribute to the fortification of knowledge, mutual understanding, integration, solidarity and peace among the Ibero-American peoples, and to spread education, science, technology and culture To encourage the

development of education and culture for peace by preparing people to preserve freedom, solidarity and human rights, supporting change which make these possible To collaborate in the interchange of economic, political and cultural influences between Europe and Ibero-America To collaborate with its members ensure that their education systems are compassionate, democratic (socially fair) and productive, preparing for working life To collaborate in the diffusion of a common culture, respecting the uniqueness of its member states, encouraging global advances in science and technology while retaining cultural identity To facilitate relationships among science, technology and society in the Ibero-American countries and citizen understanding of their effects To promote the equitable distribution of cultural, technological and scientific concepts To promote lateral cooperation among member states and between the states and other regional institutions To contribute to the spread of the Spanish and Portuguese languages, encouraging bilingual education while preserving the multicultural identity of the Ibero-American communities with a multilingual culture Structure The OEI consists of three bodies: the General Assembly, the Directive Council and the General Secretariat. The General Assembly, the supreme authority of the organization, is composed of representatives (or delegations) from member States. It establishes OEI policies, evaluates and approves the organization's plan of activities, program and global budget, fixes annual dues and chooses the secretary-general. The Directive Council is delegated by the General Assembly to control the OEI's government and administration. Made up of the member states' ministers of education (or their representatives), it is governed by the education minister of the country in which the next General Assembly meeting will be held. Its primary function is to analyze and approve the report of activities, programs, the biennial budget and the OEI's financial statement. The General Secretariat is delegated by the General Assembly as executive director of the OEI, representing it to governments, international organizations and other institutions. It directs, administers and executes the organization's programs and projects. The General Secretariat has a flexible internal structure, adaptable according to policies, strategies and the plan of activities.

Geographical level

Regional

Location

EU

Country

Bolivia

Brazil

Chile

Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Cuba  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Honduras  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Uruguay  
Venezuela  
Country  
Portugal  
Spain  
Type of organisation  
Public Institutions  
Area of interest  
Governance, Political Affairs  
Justice and Human Rights  
Security  
Higher Education  
Education for work  
Science, Research and Innovation  
Climate Change and Environment  
Economy and Sustainable Development  
Corporate Social Responsibility  
Culture  
Social Affairs  
Youth

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Relevant Projects

Proyectos de Educación, Cultura, DDHH, ciudadanía... Proyectos cofinanciados por la UE

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