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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (SEDI)

TO THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CIDI)

January – December 2022

(Presented during the regular meeting held on February 2, 2023)

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ACE Americas Competitiveness Exchange

AR Augmented Reality

CAF Development Bank of Latin America

CERT Community Emergency Response Teams

CECIP CIP Executive Board

CIDI Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development

CIE Inter-American Committee on Education

CIM Inter-American Commission on Women

CIP Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports

CITUR Inter-American Committee on Tourism

COMCYT Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology

CONCYTEC National Council for Science, Technology and Technological Innovation

CSOs Civil Society Organizations

DCF Development Cooperation Fund

DSD Department of Sustainable Development

DSS Decision Support System

ECPA The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

ESW Electronic Single Window

FVSU Fort Valley State University

GEF Global Environment Facility

GIZ German Agency for International Cooperation

IACML Inter-American Conference of Labor Ministers

IDB Inter-American Development Bank

IEA Inter-American Educational Agenda

INDM Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation

ITCA Indigenous Tourism Collaboration of the Americas

ITEN Inter-American Teacher Education Network

MB/IACD Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development

MOU Memorandum of Understanding

MSME Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprise

OAS/SEDI Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the Organization of American States

OECS Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

PADF Pan American Development Foundation

PIDS Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development

RIAC Inter-American Competitiveness Network

RIAL Inter-American Network for Labor Administration

SAP Strategic Action Plan

SBDC Small Business Development Centers

SDC Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SICE OAS Foreign Trade Information System

STI Science, Technology, and Innovation

UNEP United Nations Environment Program

UWI University of the West Indies

**OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIC LINES**

**STRATEGIC LINE 1**

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (SEDI)

TO THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CIDI)

January – December 2022

**INTRODUCTION**

AN OVERVIEW OF SEDI’S 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The work of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the Organization of American States (OAS/SEDI) is guided by the core tenets articulated in the OAS Charter and Social Charter of the Americas. SEDI derives its mandates from the Summit of the Americas, the OAS General Assembly, and various sectoral meetings at the Ministerial level. Fundamental to the work of OAS/SEDI is political dialogue and technical cooperation among member states working towards the socio-economic development of the region. Through high-level political dialogue, OAS/SEDI works with member states to define policy and priorities that they consider critical to the alleviation of poverty and the elimination of inequality in the Hemisphere. Indeed, the OAS’ mandate, “More rights for more people”, is central to SEDI’s own operational ethos. Policy imperatives are translated into programs, projects, and activities which are then implemented through partnerships with civil society organizations and other regional, international, public, and private institutions with common goals.

The OAS Comprehensive Strategic Plan, approved in 2016, tasked OAS/SEDI with specific objectives in the areas of education, competitiveness, small and medium enterprises, labor, culture, science and technology, resource management, renewable energy and energy efficiency, tourism, and sustainable development. Activities in these core areas are primarily geared towards human capacity building and institutional strengthening to foster a strong socio-economic ecosystem and the amplification of democratic governance in each member state. Additionally, OAS/SEDI promotes competitive, secure, sustainable, and inclusive port development across OAS member states.

The organizational structure of OAS/SEDI includes the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES), three departments: the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE); the Department of Economic Development (DED); and the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD); and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP). OAS/SEDI also works closely with other Secretariats within the OAS, alongside OAS affiliates such as the Trust for the Americas, the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), and the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). SEDI also has established partnerships with other international organizations, civil society organizations, the academic community, and the private sector.

In addition to functioning as the Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)—the primary multilateral forum for dialogue on development challenges facing the region—SEDI provides advisory services and direct technical assistance to member states on specific issues. It additionally finances, implements, and coordinates specific development projects with resources from the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF) and with external resources from member states, observer member states, development banks, the private sector, academia, and other partners. SEDI’s core remit, as articulated in OAS Charter, continues to be an effective channel for Triangular, South-South, and Horizontal cooperation. Through its many networks, programs, and projects, OAS/SEDI facilitates the transfer of knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices between and among Members States as they lead and manage their own socio-economic development.

Yet SEDI remains acutely aware of the challenges facing the region. A 2020 report by the International Labor Organization noted that, owing to Covid-19, Latin America and the Caribbean was “the region most affected in the world in terms of hours worked and labor income.” The International Monetary Fund (IMF) further concluded in a similar study that “the region’s [economic] contraction of 7 percent in 2020 was the sharpest in the world.” Against this backdrop, in 2021, facing unprecedented obstacles, SEDI retooled its existing programming to meet the emerging needs of member states. This year, despite the region’s cautious transition towards a post-pandemic environment, it remained vulnerable to challenging global conditions. A June 2022 World Bank report projected Latin America and the Caribbean’s economic growth “to slow sharply to 2.5 percent in 2022, following a post-pandemic rebound of 6.7 percent in 2021.”

A significant component of SEDI’s 2021 re-tooling efforts was an overhauled approach to addressing digitization across the Hemisphere – an approach that was expanded significantly in 2022. The pandemic brought into sharp focus the need for greater digital access—the World Bank notes some 170 million students in the region were affected by school closures—and SEDI has responded by accelerating the region’s adoption of new technologies and easing its adjustment to digital ecosystems. This ongoing digital transformation, characterized by inclusive programming involving small businesses, women, and indigenous populations, is leading to more competitive and resilient economies for OAS member states. Additionally, capacity-building exercises and key partnerships with leading institutions are working to expand knowledge sharing efforts across the region. Greater knowledge sharing—in particular with traditionally underserved populations—allows member states to more efficiently advance sustainable and inclusive economic development.

In 2022, SEDI brought renewed focus towards environmental resiliency whilst continuing to deliver critical programming to strengthen the sustainability of member states. The looming threat of disasters—climate related or otherwise—contextualizes this priority area in particular; the World Bank estimates that, over the last two decades, the region “lost the equivalent of 1.7 percent of a year’s GDP due to climate related disasters.” Accordingly, projects such as “Building the Resilience of Small Tourism Enterprises in the Caribbean to Disaster” are of critical importance, representing a cornerstone of SEDI’S sustainability agenda.

Covid-19 exacerbated pre-existing divides in both access to quality education and the availability of decent work across the Hemisphere. SEDI has responded to both challenges by strengthening capacity-building opportunities among its key stakeholders. Its 2022 programming (through strategic partners) included teacher training institutions, virtual workshops, seminars, publications, agreements, training programs, and scholarship opportunities as part of a holistic approach to promote education and human development in the Americas. To advance opportunities for decent, dignified, and productive work, SEDI’s actions over the past year focused on deepening social dialogue between governments, workers, and employers, and strengthening the capacities of the region’s Ministries of Labor. In addition, a number of bilateral cooperation exercises have provided traditionally informal economy workers the skills required to transition to the formal economy.

SEDI’s remit is vast, and, critically, largely dependent on partnerships and voluntary contributions from member states and other donors. In an arena of competing priorities and agendas, and amid 2022’s uncharacteristically high global inflation levels, there has been a decline in the development resources available for Latin America and the Caribbean. This has further challenged SEDI’s ability to respond to the emerging needs of member states and jeopardized much of its programming efforts. Resource mobilization remains a significant component of SEDI’s work, which is why partnerships with major international and regional organizations—Amazon, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), The Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Internet Society, IBM, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Space Foundation, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, WhatsApp (META), USAID, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, among others—and leading academic institutions—Duke University, Georgetown University, Texas A&M University, University of California Riverside, and University of Chicago—remain of critical importance.

This report corresponds to an overview of SEDI’s programming, projects, and initiatives in 2022. It is organized according to the five strategic lines and objectives as outlined in the development pillar of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan for the Organization.

**SEDI would like to thank all of its partners and stakeholders for another year of engagement and service to the Hemisphere.**

**STRATEGIC LINE 1**

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMIES

As the region transitions to a post-pandemic environment, SEDI remains committed to promoting inclusive and competitive economies across the Hemisphere. Its efforts, characterized by capacity-building exercises and cooperation among member states, have accelerated the region’s adoption of new technologies and eased its adjustment to digital ecosystems. A particular focus on micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) has proven critical in SEDI’s programming. Recognizing that MSMEs represent the structural backbone of OAS member states economies—and employ 75 percent of the workforce—SEDI has continued digitization efforts to help these enterprises leverage new economic opportunities. Ongoing partnerships with the Government of Chile, WhatsApp, and small businesses throughout OAS member states also support MSME growth initiatives. Additionally, SEDI launched the “Economically Empowered Women for Equitable and Resilient Societies” project to increase the participation of women in the region’s growing digital economy.

Other initiatives supported knowledge sharing and intersectoral collaboration, particularly in inclusive economic recovery, economic development, and digital transformation. Continued cooperation with the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT) has yielded significant advances in inclusive economic preparedness for young, and, often, at-risk populations across the Americas. Additionally, SEDI’s work consolidating the Indigenous Tourism Collaboration of the Americas (ITCA) remains an important corollary to the work of other strategic partners.

**OBJECTIVE 1.1**

Enhance the capacity of member states’ institutions that support the design and implementation of policies and programs that encourage productivity, entrepreneurship, innovation, and internationalization of MSMEs, as well as cooperatives and other production units.

**MSME Strengthening and Regional Cooperation**

* In partnership with the Government of Chile’s agency assisting micro and small businesses (SERCOTEC), four customized webinars (MSME support institutions, Chilean entrepreneurial ecosystem, local commerce, and e-commerce) were delivered in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the OAS and the Government of Peru to support MSMEs.

**OAS MSME Digitization Program**

* In the framework of the OAS-WhatsApp Business Partnership for MSMEs, WhatsApp offered to collaborate with the OAS to deliver a series of Train-the-Trainer sessions to authorities and other officials in charge of supporting the development of the MSME sector in the use of WhatsApp Business tools to allow MSMEs to connect directly with customers and reach new markets in a free, simple, reliable, and safe technology.

**Women’s Economic Empowerment**

* Launched the **“Economically Empowered Women for Equitable and Resilient Societies”** project in three member states from the Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras) and the six countries of the Eastern Caribbean (OECS) that are OAS member states (Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada), with funding from the U.S. Permanent Mission to the OAS and META, to enhance the capacity of women to effectively function in the economy, build sustainable livelihoods, and increase their participation in policymaking and leadership within their societies.

**Caribbean Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) Program**

* The SBDC Programme cemented relationships with the execution of various Memoranda of Understanding with the Government of Ecuador and with SEBRAE, the national MSME support agency of Brazil. The signature of these Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with new project countries is a critical step in the start-up of the project, as it allows for the definition of roles and responsibilities among the OAS, beneficiary country stakeholders, and consultants to formalize government commitments in the adaptation of the SBDC model in country.
* To this end, SEBRAE completed the implementation of several initiating activities in the Transfer Phase of the model, including the creation of a national SBDC network administrative team, and consultations with key MSME support stakeholders to ensure buy-in. The SEBRAE team also participated in technical visits to The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) SBDC and Washington, D.C. to provide deeper understanding of the operation of the SBDC model in the U.S. context. In addition to consultations with the leadership of the UTSA SBDC, the high-level delegation from Brazil benefitted from meetings with the representatives of the U.S. Small Business Association, State Department, U.S. Senate, and Congress Small Business Committee to share good practices of the U.S. SBDC network administration and MSME policy creation and oversight.
* Overall economic impact**:** 4628 clients served, 91 new business started, 2158 jobs created and 6678 jobs supported through SBDC interventions, $96,078,265.25 in sales revenue and $7,645,798.50 in profit generated, 11 business expansions, and $61,425,554.63 in capital infusion leveraged through loans and equity in five Caribbean member states.

**OAS Foreign Trade Information System (SICE)**

* Updated the MSME Online Clearinghouse and produced eleven special editions of the OAS MSME Newsletter to enhance the sharing of good practices, horizontal cooperation initiatives, policies, programs, and projects that support the MSME sector in OAS member states.
* Online Trade Policy Portal enhanced: over 37,000 official documents and 37 million views.

**OBJECTIVE 1.2**

Increase regional cooperation, exchanges of knowledge, transfers of technology on mutually agreed terms and conditions, and intersectoral collaboration among and within member states in the areas of competitiveness, productivity, and innovation.

**Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC), Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE)**

* Shared over 30 good practices related to inclusive economic development and economic recovery from innovation hubs, research centers, companies, universities, and public entities in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Acadiana, Louisiana, at the 14th ACE held in March 27-April 2, 2022, resulting in over 30 concrete collaboration leads between 60+ leaders from the private, public, and academic sectors of OAS member states and partners.
* Shared over 20 good practices related to sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic development, innovation and entrepreneurship by co-workspaces, fast growing companies, industry clusters, entrepreneurial initiatives, academic institutions, and other innovation hubs in Quito, Ecuador, at the 15th ACE held on November 13-17, 2022, resulting in over 25 concrete collaboration leads between 60+ leaders from the private, public, and academic sectors of OAS member states and partners.
* Programs, partnerships, and initiatives developed by 2021/2022 ACE program stakeholders:
  + 40+ new collaborations between new and former ACE stakeholders from OAS member states with the goal of advancing innovation, entrepreneurship, and innovation were documented during the reporting period.
  + The *Córdoba Acelera* Program—designed and implemented in the Municipality of Cordoba, Argentina—aims to support innovative and tech entrepreneurial projects for the improvement of the socio-economic performance of the region. *Córdoba Acelera* counts on the support of the public, private and academic sector regional stakeholders and seeks to position Cordoba as an innovative and modern region, ready to attract talent and investments.
  + The Competitiveness Observatory of the University Santiago of Guayaquil was designed and launched in collaboration with EPICO, the city’s private company dedicated to the promotion of competitiveness and innovation.
  + *Orbital Engenharia* (Brazilian Company) signed a Commercial and Technological Agreement with Cubesat (U.S. Company) and designed and implemented a series of Space Technologies Workshops in Tucuman, Argentina throughout 2022.
  + The First ACE Unit was created by Region 9 in Minnesota, United States, as a special task force with the key objective of increasing international partnerships in coordination with local, state, and federal networks to enhance the region’s economic performance. One of ACE Unit’s top priorities is to optimize the local skilled workforce development and retention, high-paid jobs creation, and entrepreneurial ventures by facilitating and leveraging Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) opportunities.
  + The Eastern Caribbean Business Resilience Challenge was launched in Trinidad and Tobago with the support from the Ministry of Education and hired local entrepreneurs in collaboration with the PADF.
  + Fort Valley State University (FVSU) established a partnership with Georgia Tech that resulted in entrepreneurship workshops being conducted at FVSU. Also, FVSU as a part of the Middle Georgia Innovation Project was awarded U.S. Department of Commerce grant funds.
  + South Hive, a company from Cordoba, Argentina, was selected to the 2022 Denver Global Landing Pad program (an eight-week business acceleration program) as a result of their participation in ACE Colorado.

**Group of Experts on Subnational Competitiveness**

* Documented and shared ten good practices and guidelines to promote digital transformation through the Working Group on Indicators and the Working Group on Construction Permits among stakeholders in OAS member states.
* International Course on Subnational Indicators and Social Progress designed and implemented by the Catholic University of Uruguay in collaboration with the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru for stakeholders, competitiveness decision makers, and researchers in the Americas.

**OBJECTIVE 1.3**

Increase cooperation for strengthening member states’ institutional capacities to incorporate innovation and transformative technology to generate added value and diversification in their economies in a sustainable and inclusive way.

**Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI)**

* During the period covered by this report, COMCYT authorities were elected at the regular meeting of CIDI held on August 30, 2022. The Honorable Daryl Vaz, Minister of Science, Energy, and Technology of Jamaica was elected as Chair; and Dr. Benjamin Abelardo Marticorena Castillo, President of the National Council for Science, Technology and Technological Innovation (CONCYTEC) of Peru, and Dr. Flavio Salazar Onfray, Minister of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation of Chile, as Vice Chairs.
* The COMCYT Work Plan 2022-2024 was agreed by the COMCYT Authorities and the Troika during the Planning Meeting of the Authorities of the CIDI Ministerial Process of Science and Technology held on November 2, 2022.The Work Plan establishes a roadmap to implement the mandates in the **Declaration of Jamaica:** “Harnessing the Power of Transformative Science and Technologies to Drive our Communities Forward,” adopted during the Sixth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology, held virtually on December 7-8, 2021. The main areas for action include addressing youth skills gap and readiness for industry 4.0; promoting the inclusion of women, rural and indigenous communities, and other populations in vulnerable situations in STI; technology foresight as input for public policy decisions; and effective public-private-academia collaboration to enhance quality of life and MSMEs through STI.
* On May 18-19, 2022, the International Seminar *“Prospecta Americas”* on transformative technologies and their implications for the economic, social, and environmental future of the Americas was held within COMCUY’s. The event was held in hybrid format—virtually, and in person in Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico—and organized by both the OAS and the Government of the State of Hidalgo in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico (SRE) and CONACYT. 981 experts, academics, and authorities in the fields of science, technology, and innovation from twenty countries of the region shared fifteen good practices and addressed critical issues such as the future of the economy, industry, education, transport, and health in the Americas. 400+ members of the scientific community in Hidalgo, Mexico, and international participants across thirteen workshops were trained on transformative technologies. The *Prospecta Americas* Seminar resulted in ten new leads for collaboration, including agreements and partnerships with Centers of Excellence on Transformative Technologies, including Blockchain in Hidalgo, Mexico; Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Barranquilla, Colombia; and the third on Advanced Materials and Nanotechnologies, in Lima, Peru.
* The OAS Youth Academy on Transformative Technologies in collaboration with Meta launched three modules of a course on Augmented Reality (AR) to provide training and certification for 10,000 youth from the Americas. The three-level course and certification are offered in English, Spanish and Portuguese and feature instruction on AR basics, fundamentals and pro levels with content developed with use cases and experiences of local creators from Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose of the OAS Youth Academy is to prepare youth of the Americas for jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities of the digital and innovation economy as provided in the Ministerial Declaration of Jamaica. More than 20,000 participants from all 34 OAS member states registered in the OAS Youth Academy in 2022. Additional course offerings are set to become available in 2023 and 2024 in collaboration with other partners including Structural.
* Under *Prospecta Americas,* SEDI supported updated versions and presentations of two regional technology foresight studies in collaboration with MINCIENCIAS Colombia – on **“The Future of Work,”** directed by the Center for Strategic Thinking and Foresight of the Universidad Externado de Colombia; and on **“Foresight in the Agri Food Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean,”** directed by the Open Network on Foresight and Innovation of the Ibero-American Program on Science and Technology for Development (CYTED).
* Signed two Cooperation Agreements to further scientific and technological research, training, and education in transformative technologies and scientific diplomacy in the Hemisphere:
  + MOU signed between OAS/SEDI and the Government of the State of Hidalgo, Mexico, on August 23, 2022, for the Regional Center of Excellence on Blockchain as part of the *Prospecta Americas* initiative.
  + MOU signed between OAS/SEDI and the Science History Institute (SHI) on November 29, 2022, to promote the use and dissemination of scientific knowledge and history to broaden the impact of science in the population of the Americas and advance sustainable and inclusive economic development in OAS member states.
* Convened three regional conferences on engineering education (LACCEI, SPEED and LEIRD) in collaboration with COMCYT Working Group 2 Partners, which supported the exchange of good practices and provided training in engineering education for more than 1,000 professionals and engineering students of the Americas.
* Supported virtual events showcasing the contributions of women in STEM, industrial innovation, and entrepreneurship with academic organizations from the Matilda Regional Chair on Women in Engineering in the Americas and the UNESCO Regional Chair for Women, Science and Technology in Latin America, headquartered in The Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Argentina.

**OBJECTIVE 1.4**

Support member states in strengthening the capacities of institutions that foster the generation of sustainable economic activities in the tourism and culture sectors.

**Culture and Tourism**

* Successfully organized and executed the Planning Meeting of the Authorities of the Tourism Ministerial Process held virtually on May 18, 2022. The Planning Meeting Authorities agreed on the draft Inter-American Committee on Tourism (CITUR) 2022-2024 Work Plan, which was formally approved by CIDI's Committee on Policies for Solidarity Cooperation for Development at its meeting in July 2022. The Plan sets out concrete measures to fulfill the mandates and commitments of the Paraguay Declaration and incorporates these actions within the framework of the action plans of the four CITUR specialized working groups established in 2020.
* Made significant progress toward consolidating ITCA, particularly in relation to growth of the collaborative and the establishment of the ITCA Digital Repository. During the year membership of the Collaborative grew more than twenty percent. A [call for resources](https://indigenoustourism.net/) to establish the Digital Repository as an Indigenous Tourism Resource Portal, with an easily accessible, comprehensive inventory of tools and resources to help Indigenous peoples, their stakeholders, and partners develop and better manage tourism was launched in August 2022, and closed on December 16, 2022.
* Completed **Building Disaster Resilience of Small Tourism Enterprises in the Caribbean** in collaboration with the DSD on September 30, 2022. The key remaining activity for 2022—the High-Level Policy Forum—was successfully organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism of Jamaica and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, and held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on July 20-21, 2022. The forum saw a high participation rate from both in-person delegates (70) and remote participants (159). The project’s findings and recommendations were distributed to beneficiary countries through official channels on November 18, 2022.
* Organized the Ninth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities, held October 27-28, 2022, that adopted the **Declaration and Plan of Action of Antigua Guatemala** on the meeting’s theme “Technology, creativity, and innovation as an opportunity for developing and strengthening culture.” Ministers and the highest appropriate authorities from 22 member states shared strategies, information, and experiences on how technologies have been used in the collection, preservation, and dissemination efforts of arts and cultural heritage, and how to strengthen tangible and intangible heritage through innovation and use of new technologies. The Meeting accepted the Dominican Republic’s offer to host the Tenth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities in 2025 and elected the Authorities of Ecuador (Chair), Barbados (First Vice Chair) and Panama (Second Vice Chair) to the Inter-American Committee on Culture.
* Successfully completed an e-book compiling and sharing the experiences of interagency coordination in support of strengthening the culture and creative industries among five OAS member states —Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Paraguay—for which these industries are increasingly important contributors to economic activity.
* Shared case studies from five member states—Colombia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru—on the Circulation of Cultural Goods and Services in the Americas, in the framework of the fourth edition of the Great World Forum of Art, Culture, Creativity and Global Technology Orange Economy Summit held in July 2022.
* Shared good practices from nine member states—Colombia, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, and the Dominican Republic—within the framework of a Virtual Dialogue on **“Experiences of safeguarding traditional trades in the Americas”** in March 2022.
* Signed an agreement establishing a framework for cooperation in the dissemination and accessibility of culture through the use of digital libraries. The agreement allows the General Secretariat, through SEDI, to disseminate and promote the virtual library "[*El Libro Total*](https://www.ellibrototal.com/)" among the authors and citizens of OAS member states. The agreement additionally strengthens collaboration to promote cultural knowledge—especially literature in the Americas— and the greater use of digital technologies by both culture professionals and the consumers of cultural and creative products. OAS member states and their citizens are also afforded free access to a vast virtual library (link above).

**STRATEGIC LINE 2**

STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (PIDS)

The DSD continued to deliver critical programming to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of member states. In accordance with the PIDS, DSD worked in collaboration with countries throughout the hemisphere to further efforts contributing to mainstreaming resilience and disaster risk management, strengthening capacities in the area of climate resilient and sustainable ecosystems management, fostering enhanced water security, building capacity for integrated water resources management, and supporting the development and use of sustainable energy alternatives. In 2022, DSD continued to emphasize activities in collaboration with other SEDI Departments, including cross-cutting programs addressing tourism and resiliency, water security and economic development, climate change, and ports.

**OBJECTIVE 2.1**

Enhanced member states’ capacities in the area of disaster risk management in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.1 of the PIDS.

**Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change**

* Enhanced capacity building in the understanding of the business continuity process through practical tools and techniques that Small Tourism Enterprises in the Caribbean can use to examine areas that could affect operations. 68 participants from all thirteen participating project countries attended the four-part training sessions, with fourteen persons receiving certifications of completion and 53 persons receiving certifications of participation.
* Facilitated the delivery of CERT trainings for Small Tourism Enterprises in local communities in five countries (The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, and St. Lucia) through the Emergency Management Agencies and Ministries of Tourism. Over 120 persons were trained and became certified in basic CERT skills as part of the project **Building Disaster Resilience of Small Tourism Enterprises in the Caribbean***.*
* Presented an in-person High-Level Policy Forum hosted by the Ministry of Tourism in Jamaica—which included participation from all thirteen participating project countries—for the validation of the findings and recommendations from the holistic assessment survey of over 600 Small Tourism Enterprises, validation of the challenges to post disaster business continuity of Small Tourism Enterprises, and validation of the procedures for crisis communications and business continuity planning.
* Supported the coordination and organization of a High-Level Conference on raising the awareness and understanding of how Science and Data can shape policies for building resilience and disaster risk management in the Caribbean. Nine Caribbean countries (The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) participated in the in-person event hosted by the government of Dominica.
* In partnership with The University of West Indies, developed Crisis Communication Procedural Guidelines to help Small Tourism Enterprises in the Caribbean identify potential crises and implement strategies to plan, manage, and respond accordingly to recover quickly during and after a disaster. The Procedural Guidelines have been disseminated to over 600 stakeholders.
* Undertook CERT Training in the Trifinio Region (Honduras). Training strengthened the capacities of the communities of the Trifinio Plan (El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala), so that with their own means and resources they can face an emergency or disaster before the arrival of the professional teams. 40 community members from fourteen municipal institutions were trained and certified under CERT; they are now multiplier agents of the program, supporting preventive and response Disaster Risk Management activities to public and private organizations.
* Populated and maintained the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) on-line database in collaboration with the Inter-American Defense Board, particularly as it relates to 1) national coordinating authorities responsible for the offer, acceptance, and request of international disaster response; 2) national capacities for international disaster response integrating all capacities, civilian and military, public and private, as well as NGOs; 3) multi-lateral and bi-lateral agreements for international disaster response including mutual aid agreements; and 4) all national legislation and regulations in case of disasters that inform and regulate international disaster response.
* Developed terms of reference and engaged a consultant to support the development and enhancement for the INDM on-line. The database will be launched in 2023 and will provide a one-stop site for countries to access key persons responsible for responding to disasters in the hemisphere, enabling the more efficient exchange of critical knowledge and resources throughout the hemisphere.
* Supported the meeting of the The Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction in preparation for disaster response with a focus on disaster recovery, reconstruction, and facilitating multi-country and muti-stakeholder collaboration in disaster response, reconstruction, and recovery.
* Supported missions of the Argentine White Helmets Commission in response to disasters, including natural and biological hazard related disasters, and particularly in response to and support of member states in managing the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Supported the joint meeting of the Permanent Council and CIDI on **“Strengthening the Role of the OAS in Advancing Disaster Resilience in the Hemisphere,”** held on June 29, 2022.

**The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports**

* Organized the second and third online regional workshops on Improved Disaster Risk Management in Caribbean Ports in support of **“Improved Disaster Risk Management Project for Ports in the Caribbean”** – benefiting 44 port officials from ten OAS member states and one non-sovereign state.

**OBJECTIVE 2.2**

Enhance member states’ capacities in the area of sustainable management of ecosystems in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.2 of the PIDS.

* All of SEDI/DSDs programming and projects work to address this objective. Particularly, the sustainable management of ecosystems is an integral objective and component of all Integrated Water Resources Management projects in transboundary basins, such as La Plata Basin, and transboundary biospheres, such as the *La Fraternidad* tri-national biosphere in the Trifinio region. Likewise, all efforts in sustainable energy, particularly those for the promotion of renewable energy, energy transition policies, and energy efficiency contribute to the sustainable management of ecosystems, their natural resources, and ecological services. Furthermore, all efforts towards building community resilience and disaster risk management directly contribute to this objective.

**OBJECTIVE 2.3**

Enhance member states’ capacities in the area of integrated water resources management in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.3 of the PIDS.

**Integrated Water Resources Management**

* Executed a US$4.8 million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for Fostering Water Security in the Trifinio Region (El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala).
* Implemented the Capacity building Program **“Climate Action for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”** for around 700 people from 23 OAS member states (Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and Uruguay). The Program was offered free of charge to groups of climate negotiators, decision makers, and representatives of governmental institutions with environmental and climate competencies in LAC countries in two implementation cycles.
* Completed execution of the *La Plata* Basin Project (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay), developed through a US$2 million grant secured from the GEF through CAF for the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP), to accelerate actions in the priority areas of water security, climate resilience, and ecosystem health, including the development of a short-term basin-wide multisector project portfolio.
* Developed a new project phase for the Implementation of the *La Plata* Basin SAP priorities through regional and national actions, which have been presented to the GEF though CAF for US$15 million to be executed between 2023-2028.
* Developed the project document and project implementation plan for the **“Project for Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Management of High-Andean Ecosystems,”** a regional initiative (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru) with US$5 million contributed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to be implemented between 2023-2028.
* Started execution of a new project activity to promote **“Water Resilience for a Drought Responsive Northeast Haiti.”** This activity follows ongoing cooperation between the OAS, PADF, and USAID for the Community Driven Development project. The project will invest US$3.9 million in order to increase water security, promote food security, and support farmers' livelihoods by mobilizing adaptive water management measures that mitigate recurring droughts and other shocks and stresses in the Northeast department of Haiti.
* SEDI/DSD partnered with the IDB, UNEP, GIZ, and the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention to execute the GEF project **“The Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management,”**with the Wider Caribbean Region (Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago). SEDI/DSD is responsible for the overall coordination of the project while Barbados leads the development of a National Communications Strategy (and associated implementation plan) for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management, an environmental evaluation for a Wastewater Revolving Fund, and the development of a co-financing/revolving fund mechanism to support uptake of wastewater treatment and reuse programs.
* Started developing **“Science for Decision Making in Transboundary Waters in Latin America and the Caribbean,”** in coordination with the U.S. Science and Applications Team of the Interagency Water Task Force and other relevant stakeholders in the Americas. The first workshop **“Building capacities on tools and methodologies based on data and science for effective management of water resources in the La Plata Basin”** was implemented for 25 water and environment officials as part of this joint initiative.
* Co-organized the second **International Symposium on Transboundary Waters of Latin America and the Caribbean**, led by the government of Bolivia in collaboration with the IADB, SDC, GIZ, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
* Improved the Decision Support System (DSS) in Water Resources for La Plata River Basin. The DSS will help decision makers form clearer pictures of flood situations, water quality conditions in the basin, and drought, in order to make informed decisions and activate measures that mitigate or limit the adverse effects of: restriction of discharge from hydroelectric plants, leading to impacts on energy production; navigation and other environmental aspects; impacts on water intakes (water scarcity); navigation problems due to low flows; increased demand for information in case of a water related event (agricultural sector, health, environment, etc.); and effects on water purification processes, tourism, fauna, and low quality water for irrigation.
* Published the guide **“Good practices for climate change mitigation and adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean: concept, methodology and experiences to strengthen the human dimensions of Nationally Determined Contributions,”** a Technical Cooperation project between the OAS and IADB led by Jamaica, Costa Rica, and Uruguay.
* Published the report “**Transboundary Basins: Water and Peace in The Americas: Methodology for Diagnosing Transboundary Cooperation and Resilience.”**
* Started the preparation of a Capacity Building Program for Green Bonds in Transboundary Basins. The program will be Funded by the GIZ and implemented in conjunction with IADB.
* Started developing project proposals for promoting sustainable management of strategic ecosystems and basins of the Trifinio Region; namely Sumpul River basin, Guija Lake, and the Ocotepeque-Citala Aquifer. IADB and CAF are partners in this initiative.
* Secured seed funding in technical cooperation with IADB to develop a project **“Promoting the Sustainable Management of La Hispaniola Island,”** with special focus on the Artibonite River Basin. Project to be submitted to the GEF for incremental funding in the first semester of 2023.
* Started a co-creation process with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency for the **Accelerator for Development and Financial Strategies for Transboundary Basins in Latin America and the Caribbean.**
* Prepared and submitted to the GEF—in coordination with CAF and the Governments of Argentina and Bolivia**—“Integrated Water Resources Management in the Transboundary Basin of the Bermejo River,”** to be financed through CAF for US$6 million and executed in 2024-2028. The project was approved by the Donor in July 2022.

**OBJECTIVE 2.4**

Enhance member states’ capacities in the area of sustainable cities and communities in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.4 of the PIDS.

* Much like Objective 2.2 (see above), this Objective is also addressed as an overarching thematic area of all SEDI/DSD programs and projects, as they target urban communities within transboundary basins and regional planning and management units. Likewise, the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas and the Disaster Risk Management Program contribute to advancing the objectives of sustainable cities and communities in the Hemisphere.

**OBJECTIVE 2.5**

Enhance member states’ capacities in the area of sustainable energy management, prioritizing the promotion of clean, renewable, environmentally sustainable energy and energy efficiency in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.5 of the PIDS.

**The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA)**

* Supported Panama in hosting the fifth ECPA Ministerial under the theme **“Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions.”** The event brought together energy ministers and high-ranking officials from 29 countries in the Americas. The meeting was held both in-person and virtually and generated a biennial Action Plan pledged to by the participating countries.
* Supported the Summit Implementation Review Group in its drafting of a commitment document, approved by the chiefs of state of the Western Hemisphere at the IX Summit of the Americas held in Los Angeles, to accelerate the clean, sustainable, renewable, and just energy transition across the Americas. ECPA is considered one of the prime mechanisms to achieve this goal at the regional level.
* Imparted training on energy-sector resilience in Small Island Developing States through a four-workshop series designed to tackle specific hurdles relating to energy sector disaster risk management and resilience in the Caribbean. The topics addressed by each workshop included: **“Electric Power Systems and Institutional Governance,” “Microgrids for Improving Resilience,” “Understanding Utility Financial Viability Disruptors,” and “Transparency in Renewable Energy Procurement.”** Nearly 100 government officials from seventeen countries participated in the trainings.
* Hosted the **2022 Decarbonization Leadership Training Program**, designed to empower Latin American and Caribbean decision-makers on critical decarbonization issues, and to promote private sector engagement and investment. Through three virtual sessions held between May and June 2022, 150 government officials were able to speak with experts about issues relating to energy, hydrogen, decarbonization planning, policy, procurement, and partnerships.
* Facilitated energy diplomacy and integration through policy exchanges at the XIII Clean Energy Ministerial and VII Mission Innovation Ministerial, hosted by the U.S. Chile, the Dominican Republic, Panama, and Uruguay shared their experiences and lessons learned in energy transition and decarbonization toward 2050 with an emphasis on electric mobility, infrastructure resilience, and social inclusion.

**The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports**

* Started conversations with Panama’s Maritime Authority about implementing the Port Incentive Program in one of their ports. The CIP Secretariat is expecting results in 2023.

**OBJECTIVE 2.6**

Enhance member states’ capacities to attain efficient, effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions for sustainable development in line with the goals and strategic actions in section 3.6 of the PIDS.

* Provided administrative and technical assistance to the Secretariat under the U.S. – Peru Trade Promotion Agreement for submissions on Environmental Enforcement Matters, and in receiving and processing public submissions regarding failures of a Party to effectively enforce its environmental laws.
* Developed a project proposal for **“Building Capacity of GEF National Executing Agencies in Latin America and The Caribbean”** in collaboration with the GEF Secretariat and as part of its Country Support Program. This project proposal has been approved by the GEF council under its eight replenishments; GS/OAS now awaits GEF guidance to start the due diligence process.

**STRATEGIC LINE 3**

PROMOTING EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS

The General Assembly of the Organization of American States, through resolution AG/RES. 2967 (LI-O/21), instructed SEDI to present the Draft 2022-2027 Inter-American Educational Agenda (IEA). In this sense, under the leadership of the Authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE), the dialogues between Ministries of Education held in 2022 acquired a dynamic that was consolidated in the Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education, held in July 2022, where representatives from 28 countries ratified the consensus around the priority areas and the thematic lines that will guide the [2022-2027 Inter-American Education Agenda](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=V.14.1.CIDI/RME/doc&classNum=6&lang=e). Also, the representatives of the Ministries of Education fulfilled the central objective of generating consensus on both the [Hemispheric Declaration of Education](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=V.14.1.CIDI/RME/dec&classNum=1&lang=e) and the [Hemispheric Plan of Action](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=V.14.1.CIDI/RME/doc&classNum=8&lang=e) for Education, documents approved by acclamation during the Eleventh Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education held on November 10 and 11, 2022.

**OBJECTIVE 3.1**

Strengthen member states’ institutional capacities to provide quality, inclusive, and equitable education.

**The IEA and Implementation of the 2019-2022 CIE Work Plan**

* Two virtual dialogue spaces were held in March on Public Policies and School Coexistence programs, corresponding to Project #7 of the CIE's 2019-2022 Work Plan. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Education of Colombia, programs, initiatives, and good practices were compiled, to create a shared resource of best practices, easily accessible to all officials.
* In June, at the request of officials from Ministries of Education, the third virtual session on School Coexistence was held, where it was agreed to present the proposal for an Inter-American Program on School Coexistence for inclusion in the 2022-2025 CIE Work Plan.
* Promoted collaboration between Ministries of Health and Education. Joint work continued through partnership with the Pan American Health Organization with the launch of the “**Inter-American Program on healthy eating and physical activity policies in school environments”** on October 12. This Program is the product of the work carried out within the framework of project #4 of the CIE Work Plan, by concretizing the systematization of experiences of public policies and programs in its design.
* Completed the systematization of dialogues on public policies by compiling country contributions regarding lessons learned, challenges faced, and local experiences on issues of great relevance for the region. These documents were validated by authorities and officials of the participating countries in their respective dialogues.

**OBJECTIVE 3.2**

Strengthen the teaching profession in member states by creating more training opportunities.

**The Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN)**

* Improved the capacity of 65 teacher training institutions in 26 OAS member states to provide quality STEM teacher education through multilateral collaborations in the form of Project Teams. Of these institutions, 40 received seed funding amounting to nearly US$500,000 in financial awards to implement innovative STEM teacher training programs.
* Carried out a series of nine virtual workshops called **“Digital Transformation in Education: Opportunities for Teacher Development in Times of Change,”** based on alliances with strategic partners. These workshops were taught by regional and international experts who provided innovative concepts, pedagogical strategies, and free resources to more than 1,300 teachers, ministry representatives, and other educators from 32 OAS member states in order to help these stakeholders better prepare their students for 21st century learning.
* Evaluated ITEN programming over the last three years—representing the efforts of six thematic teams made up of 58 participants representing 45 educational institutions across twenty member states—to produce best practice frameworks in STEM teacher training policies, programs, and practices.
* Continued to promote discussion on teaching practices, policies, and the dissemination of work and opportunities for teacher professional development offered to the 30,000 members of the ITEN Virtual Community of Practice across the 34 OAS member states.
* Improved the capacity of over 237,000 STEM educators from 34 member states (including face-to-face trainings of 3,288 educators) to provide quality STEM education to their students.
* Held the annual Virtual Seminar in November under the theme **“Quality teachers, quality future.”** The activity focused on the design and implementation of effective policies, programs, and practices in teacher training in the Americas in anticipation of the Eleventh Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education. This two-day virtual exhibition space offered the opportunity for Ministries and other partner institutions of the OAS member states to showcase their teacher training initiatives to more than 10,000 educators and leaders from the region.
* ITEN and the Educational Portal of the Americas, with the support of Fundación *Profuturo*, carried out the following activities:
  + Completed **Mapping of Good Practices in Digital Education of the Americas**, which received more than 170 applications from civil society organizations (CSOs) and schools from 19 countries. ITEN was part of the evaluation committee of this activity.
  + Trained more than 950 teachers from The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, and Saint Lucia in innovation and the integration of ICT in the classroom.
  + Extended the offer of teacher training to fourteen CARICOM countries, with over 1,600 teachers enrolling.
  + Awarded 4,000 scholarships for two courses aimed at strengthening digital skills for teachers in coordination with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Peru.
  + Registered some 7,900 Guatemalan teachers in teacher training courses in coordination with the General Directorate of Educational Quality Management of the Ministry of Education and the civil society organization DECA.
  + Held two webinars with specialists in good educational practices which received more than 1,000 views.

**The Educational Portal of the Americas**

* Developed the following initiatives within the framework of Fundación *ProFuturo* to deepen coordination among CSOs, enrich hemispheric dialogue, and contribute to IEA objectives:
  + Published **“Civil Society Organizations and their contributions to educational continuity in a pandemic”** with the participation of 68 CSOs from sixteen countries, and “**Post-pandemic educational reconstruction and technology use in the progressive return to attendance”** with the participation of 30 CSOs from twelve countries.
  + Hosted roundtables with over 80 representatives of Ministries of Education and CSOs.
  + CSOs shared their outlook on digital learning materials within the framework of Fundación Telefónica, Omar Dengo (Costa Rica), and Fundación DECA (Guatemala) at the Civil Society Forum.
  + The Padre Arrupe Foundation (El Salvador), the Gabriel Lewis Galindo Foundation (Panama), the Telefónica Movistar Chile Foundation, the Telefónica Movistar Uruguay Foundation, and the Telefónica Peru Foundation joined the OAS Civil Society Organization registration process.
* 615 citizens from 22 member states enrolled for online courses and diplomas, with 234 benefitting from partial scholarships taught in the Virtual Classroom of the Educational Portal of the Americas.
* 3.291 people received free access to Massive Online Open Courses in the fields of education, human rights, gender affairs, STEM-STEAM Education, and cybersecurity.
* Produced fourteen virtual courses in through coordination with OAS strategic partners, with:
  + 2,580 people trained in human rights (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights),
  + 400 people trained in prevention and attention to human trafficking (Department of Public Safety), and
  + 50 people trained in prevention of gender-based violence in the workplace (alliance with the Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM) and the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL)).

**OBJECTIVE 3.3**

Strengthen member states’ institutional capacities to provide comprehensive early childhood care.

* Signed a co-sponsorship agreement with the University of the West Indies (UWI) to provide nineteen scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year to OAS-UWI Partnerships Program for Education and Training Scholarship Recipients from anglophone Caribbean member states registered in the **Early Childhood Development and Family Studies** certificate course.

**OBJECTIVE 3.4**

Foster member states’ access to quality, inclusive, equitable educational opportunities at all levels, in all modalities, and in all the four official languages of the Organization.

**The OAS Scholarship and Training Programs**

* With the support of the Governments of The Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, and in partnership with various regional and international institutions, 3,432 scholarships were awarded to citizens of 34 member states.
* Offered over 11,000 scholarships through partnerships with *Soluciones Integrales de Formación y Gestión* (Structuralia)and *Formato Educativo Escuela de Negocios* in Spain, and Marconi International University in the U.S.
* The Professional Development Course Selection Committee of the Professional Development Scholarship Program shortlisted 23 pre-selected course proposals (out of 53) received from seventeen different institutions in eight OAS member countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the U.S., and Uruguay) and three OAS permanent observer countries (China, Spain, and Italy).
* A total of seven courses within the Scholarship Program for Professional Development—aligned with the priorities of the OAS countries—are set be taught between March-June 2023.
  + Courses 1&2 – **Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development** (high employability potential)
  + Course 3– **Disaster Risk Management** (to strengthen the capacity for project generation at the local level)
  + Course 4– **Green Recovery and Sustainable Development** (particularly focusing on the link between environmental challenges and labor, and with special emphasis on the response to Covid-19 and its impact on the economy and employment)
  + Course 5 – **Sustainable Tourism and Local Development in Rural Areas** (strengthen capacities to design local development strategies to build responsible tourism models which can capitalize on their immense potential in terms of economic prosperity, social inclusion, and cultural and environmental preservation)
  + Course 6 – **Inclusive Education** (fosters critical thinking about effective inclusion tools and strategies promoting friendly educational environments
  + Course 7 – **Introduction to new Technologies**(identifies the benefits of digital transformation and describes the technologies of the 4th Industrial Revolution that will generate new business models and new products/services, ultimately increasing productivity and generating new jobs in the industry)
* The Academic Scholarship Program received 89 applications from 28 member states in response to the 2022 Call for Scholarship Applications. 34 scholarships were offered; six offers for undergraduate studies and 24 offers for graduate studies were accepted.
  + Academic Scholarships are awarded for the last two years of undergraduate studies for citizens of the English-speaking Caribbean member states and Suriname.
  + Graduate scholarships are awarded for studies leading to masters, doctoral, and/or graduate research to citizens of all OAS member states.
  + Scholarship recipients receive up to US$10,000 per academic year, for a maximum of two academic years, to pursue studies at reputable academic institutions in OAS member states in either onsite, online, or blended modalities.

**The Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund**

* The Rowe Fund is an OAS educational loan program that helps citizens of Latin America and the Caribbean from OAS member states finance their studies or research at accredited universities in the United States through the granting of interest-free loans of up to US$15,000. In 2022, the fund:
  + Managed an investment portfolio of US$19.4 million.
  + Administered 377 loan accounts worth US$2.37 million with a single-digit default rate.
  + Awarded US$663,158 in financial aid, helping international students from seventeen of the 32 eligible OAS member states.
  + Financially helped close to 100 international students from the region cover tuition and living expenses while studying at universities in the United States. Of those 100:
    - 79 were enrolled in graduate students;
    - 48 percent were women; and
    - All participated in on-site (traditional) studies.
  + Granted educational and emergency loans to GS/OAS staff members for their/their dependents’ education.
  + Awarded Covid-19 emergency relief scholarships to students studying in the U.S., helping offset the financial challenges created by the pandemic.
  + Continued the **“Give to Education”** fundraising campaign to provide additional emergency scholarships.
  + In collaboration with other higher education related institutions, carried out webinars to citizens of OAS member states.
  + Organized webinars in collaboration with institutions related to higher education.

**The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports**

* Demonstrated best practices to 2,038 port officials from 28 OAS member states through a series of twelve technical webinars organized in collaboration with seven strategic partners. Topics included port development, gender equality, port protection and security, customs, cruise ports, sustainable management, social responsibility, and technological innovation.
* Held four Hemispheric Events in partnership with National Port Authorities, introducing over 2,100 port officials from 29 OAS member states to successful practices in Sustainable Port Management and Environmental Protection (Mexico); Waterways, Inland and Cruise Ports (Argentina); Port Protection, Security, and Port-City Relations (Barbados and the U.S.); and Port-City Relations, Social Responsibility, and Gender Equality (Peru).
* Trained, in collaboration with the National Port Authority Peru and the National Port Training Centre of Argentina, 565 port personnel from 28 OAS member states in 29 certified professional development courses through scholarships valued at US$526,950. Topics included project management, risk in maritime transport operations, human resources management, distribution system on port logistics, women in port management, operational safety, port competitiveness, data analytics, port concessions, and decision-making.
* Port personnel from Saint Maarten also benefited from these activities owing to an MOU between CIP and the Port Management Association of the Caribbean.

**STRATEGIC LINE 4**

PROMOTING DECENT, DIGNIFIED, AND PRODUCTIVE WORK FOR ALL

SEDI strengthens the capacity of member states to improve labor conditions, promote labor rights, and create jobs – in turn, working to promote productive employment and decent work for all. Its efforts are focused on fulfilling the mandates of the Inter-American Conference of Labor Ministers (IACML), which, at its latest meeting in September 2021, recognized the pandemic’s negative consequences on employment levels, labor participation, and inequality. The IACML also directed regional actions towards building a more resilient world of work and achieving a sustainable, fair, and people-centered employment recovery. In 2022, SEDI's actions in this area, supported mainly by RIAL, focused on deepening social dialogue between governments, workers, and employers and strengthening the capacities of Ministries of Labor in their efforts to improve labor inspection, regulate telework, provide training, and develop skills relevant to the labor market, contribute to a transition from the informal economy to the formal economy, achieve greater equality in employment, and prevent violence at work.

**OBJECTIVE 4.1**

Enhance member states capacities for strengthening education and lifelong training systems.

* Continued to promote collaboration between RIAL’s Ministries of Labor and Education within the framework of the ministerial processes of Labor and Education. Coordination between both sectorial portfolios was determined as a priority in the 2022-2024 IACML Work Plan (highlighting activities to be carried out in 2023 and 2024), as well as in the IEA’s second phase of implementation.
* Peru and Ecuador’s Ministries of Labor are currently developing training programs in digital skills and national qualifications after technical assistance from Paraguay and Colombia through RIAL/OAS bilateral cooperation.
* The Minister of Labor, Employment, and Social Security of Argentina; and President of the IACML; participated in the Eleventh Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education, reaffirming the commitment to work within both the intersectoral agenda and the framework of the 2022-2027 IEA.

**OBJECTIVE 4.2**

Enhance member states’ institutional capacities to promote equitable and inclusive job conditions and opportunities for populations in vulnerable situations and all groups that face significant challenges in the labor market.

* Created **The Network of Gender Focal Points in the Ministries of Labor** as a specialized community within the RIAL; its operation document and annual work plan was prepared in March. Within the framework of this Network:
  + Three hemispheric gender dialogues were held with representation from 30 member states on various priority issues, including labor inspection with a gender perspective.
  + The **Manual for the Creation and Operation of Gender Units in Ministries of Labor** was completed.
  + The English version of the **Virtual Course on Gender-based Violence at Work** was launched on the Educational Portal of the Americas, with the participation of officials from ten Caribbean member states.
  + Each of these actions have been carried out in close collaboration with the CIM.
* Hosted a broad regional dialogue and prepared a policy recommendation document to strengthen and institutionalize social dialogue between governments, workers, and employers in the region following the Hemispheric Workshop **“Social dialogue for a sustainable, just, and equitable recovery,”** held in Bogotá Colombia in July. Government delegations, and workers' and employers' organizations from 29 member states participated in this dialogue.
* Held a RIAL Hemispheric Workshop to exchange experiences and present solutions to one of the region’s most persistent and complex labor market challenges: informal employment. In October, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, officials from the Ministries of Labor from 24 OAS member states, representatives of workers and employers, and international organizations, convened for **“Social Dialogue for a rights-based transition from informal to formal employment.”** Best practices throughout the region were identified and recommendations were made to address informal employment.
* Depeened labor cooperation thanks to significant commitment from RIAL’s Ministries of Labor. In 2022, RIAL carried out virtual bilateral cooperations involving the Ministries of Labor of Argentina, Belize, Barbados, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, allowing them to strengthen their capacities and develop specific products on occupational health and safety, labor inspection, national qualification framework, strategies to prevent gender-based violence at work, identification of child labor, and signs of labor exploitation. In November 2022, RIAL conducted a face-to-face bilateral cooperation exercise, which saw Panamian officials receive on-site training from Chile on labor inspection in the mining sector.
* SEDI prepared and launched the **Open Portfolio on Telework Legislation and Regulations,** available [here](http://rialnet.org/?q=en/telework_JA) on the RIAL website, bringing together more than 90 laws, regulations, resolutions, and other regulatory instruments from 23 member states. This Portfolio is a useful repository of information and research, and a strategic reference source for other countries that advance their efforts in this area.

**STRATEGIC LINE 5**

FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS

The Organization of American States Development Cooperation Fund (OAS/DCF) leverages multi-sectoral partnerships and alliances to provide targeted technical cooperation initiatives that are community based, locally delivered, and responsive to the specific capacity building needs of member states. In the recently completed 2017-2021 programming cycle, US$1.5 million was allocated and seventeen regional projects were implemented across three thematic areas prioritized by the IEA: quality, inclusive, and equitable education; strengthening of the teaching profession; and comprehensive early childhood care. The projects were designed to strengthen the quality of education being offered in member states, as well to expand access of vulnerable groups such as women, youth, indigenous people, and rural communities.

In its current 2021-2024 programming cycle, the DCF has been allocated US$1.8 million ([AICD/JD/DE-131/21](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=131&lang=e)) to support the implementation of eighteen regional programs, highlighting education, science, and technology as crosscutting subjects connecting four thematic areas: retooling MSMEs through innovation and technology; innovative reskilling for Tourism sector recovery and regional economies; scientific and technological innovation for building resilience; and science for decision making in disaster risk planning. The programs, each in the early stages of implementation, are expected to contribute to the member states in their recovery process from the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**OAS/DCF PROGRAM CYCLE 2017-2021**

**PROGRAM I**

**Quality, Inclusive and Equitable Education: Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Nicaragua**

**Costa Rica: Community teachers + *“Yo Me Apunto”* strategy**

* + - * 243 beneficiaries from eighteen educational centers in priority districts (those impacted by unsatisfied basic needs and low levels of family education) were reinstated in formal education; the retention rate for these beneficiaries was 95 percent due to the work of community teachers.

**Ecuador: Teacher training program and inclusive educational practices for Ecuadorian schools**

* + - * 1,218 teachers developed skills to implement innovative methodologies of educational inclusion in public institutions (primary education) in the provinces of Azuay, Cañar, and Morona Santiago. These skills are replicable throughout the broader educational system, helping promote more inclusive education across other institutions.

**El Salvador: Inclusive education – Building spaces for participation and learning for life**

* Educational prospects for learning development; general, and life skills improved for more than 5,000 adolescents with disabilities at risk of exclusion and social vulnerability.
* Trained 618 professionals across El Salvador’s fourteen departments in ICT, and a further 270 special education teachers in the creation and management of virtual classrooms in an effort to improve student attention rates and spotlight innovative ways of learning through different types of media.

**Guyana: Improving technical/vocational education in secondary and post-secondary institutions**

* Certified 27 teachers and staff members from post-secondary schools and Ministry of Education officials on instruction in **Heavy Duty Equipment Maintenance and Repairs and Occupational Safety and Health Administration**. This capacity building exercise allows for these teachers and officials to train other practitioners, expanding technical/vocational education to meet necessary workforce requirements.

**Nicaragua: Strengthening the capacities and technological skills of students, teachers, and directors of remote secondary education in rural areas**

* Made infrastructure enhancements and technological upgrades in 21 rural schools (where over 2,700 students are enrolled in remote learning), strengthening the overall remote learning educational system network.
* Within the remote learning framework, 21 principals, 63 teachers, and 2,749 students are applying ICT to the teaching and learning of Mathematics, English, Language & Literature, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences.

**PROGRAM II**

**Strengthening the teaching profession: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis**

**Antigua and Barbuda: Teacher empowerment for nation building**

* + - * Familiarized 360 teachers and 2,480 students across all grade levels with modern social issues, identifying both their warning signs and strategies to curb the resulting disruptive behaviors.
      * Three pilot schools began implementing psychosocial intervention strategies following the Social-Emotional Learning Fortification for Students curriculum.
      * 55 teachers, having received **Certification in International Inclusive Education,** developed skills to identify and implement a number of strategies to differentiate instruction and adapt lessons taught to reach each learner individually.

**Argentina: Trainers of trainers**

* + - * Trained 200 teaching teams (925 teachers) from Higher Teacher Training Institutes in teaching for understanding, developing professional teaching skills, and creating professional learning communities. Virtual surveys were used to determine the different ways the training impacted their teaching practices; over 90 percent of participants were satisfied with the program.
  + Designed and implemented strategies to transfer this knowledge to a broader network of educators; 5,950 teachers were reached, and 238 innovation projects were developed as part of the **Academic Update**.
    - * Evaluated teacher training devices for the development of pedagogical innovations and professional learning communities for implementation throughout the country. Four studies were completed, one of which was carried out by an external consulting team.

**Barbados: Strengthening professional development for teachers to improve education quality**

* Established a professional development center focusing solely on the implementation of continuous development programs in areas of need to improve the quality of education. As of December 2021, the center benefitted a total of 1060 teachers and 195 administrators through online/blended courses with the goal of expanding professional development opportunities for teachers across Barbados.

**Peru: Building sustainable practices for teachers**

* Consolidated, organized, and shared (through the National Observatory of Good Practices and Educational Innovation) examples of sustainable teaching practices at the national level.
* Strengthened capacity building in teachers for the implementation and subsequent sharing of sustainable practices.

**Saint Kitts and Nevis: Professionalizing the teaching force**

* Developed a continuous professional development framework for educators; a career pathway for the education sector, including the projected costs of civil service pay scale reform; an appraisal system for educators; and new professional standards, inclusive of a code of conduct; for teachers and educators. These measures will encourage the professionalization of the teaching force – leading to improved teaching, development, and educational management.
* Certified 80 teachers to teach English as a Second Language within schools.

**PROGRAM III**

**Comprehensive early childhood care: The Bahamas, Honduras, Panama, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay**

**The Bahamas: Bahamas ‘Early Start Project’**

* Developed a revised preschool curriculum with input from more than 245 caregivers, teachers, and teacher’s aides from public and private preschools.
* Familiarized and trained early childhood stakeholders, directors, caregivers, teachers, teachers’ aides, and parents in appropriate practices for teaching and caring for young children. To ensure sustainability, the Department of Education’s Curriculum Development Cycle was instituted to ensure that all curricula documents are revised five years.

**Honduras: Fathers and mothers raising their children with love**

* Refined *“Criando con Amor,”* a community strategy currently taught to 1,353 facilitators, parents, and community actors to promote awareness of and implementation strategies for fourteen behavioral changes designed to optimize a child’s social and physical development.

**Panama:Education for early childhood is important because ‘First comes First’**

* Developed an Intersectoral Technical Assistance and Support Plan.
* Held over 30 family orientation workshops in education centers in the education centers of the Panamanian Institute for Special Training, Retorno, and San Juan Bosco.
* Currently outlining a strategy to transform educational approaches in special education schools.

**Saint Lucia: Towards a more quality assured Early Childhood Development sector**

* Submitted a first draft of the **Education Regulations Saint Lucia Statutory Instrument** *­*to the Attorney General’s Office for approval.
* Assessed 116 Early Childhood Centers; 63 received certification using the OECS monitoring checklist. 35 practitioners acquired practical experience observing children and planning lessons accordingly. This will help standardize operations for existing centers and help improve their functioning.
* Trained twelve teachers in the technical use of equipment (as it related to ongoing projects at their respective schools) as part of the *ProFuturo* **Digital Education Project.**

**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Restructuring the ‘Early Childhood Curriculum’**

* Developed a restructured, student-centered, and project based Early Childhood Curriculum with a more integrated approach to lesson planning. The exercise raised awareness of the importance of Early Childhood Education and highlighted the benefits of exposure to a student-centered curriculum.

**Uruguay:** **Interinstitutional integration of information systems for the care and education of Early Childhood in Uruguay**

* Developed quality indicators for early childhood education and comprehensive care alongside educational content for distribution in accordance with the interinstitutional and intersectoral agreement established between six national institutions – the Ministry of Education and Culture, Uruguayan Children and Adolescents Institute, the Council of Initial and Primary Education, the Ministry of Public Health, *Uruguay Crece Contigo*, and the National Integrated System of Care.

**OAS/DCF Program Cycle 2021-2024**

* The Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (MB/IACD) approved **“Inclusive Resilience for an Effective Recovery, with a Focus on Science and Technology”** ([AICD/JD/DE-126/20](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=126&lang=e)) as a strategic thematic area for the 2021-2024 OAS/DCF programming cycle, underscored by four additional program themes:

1. Retooling MSMEs through innovation and technology.
2. Innovative Reskilling for Tourism sector recovery and regional economies.
3. Scientific and technological innovation for building resilience.
4. Science for decision making in disaster risk planning.

* The area of action and corresponding themes were approved by CIDI at its regular meeting, held on December 8, 2020 ([CIDI/doc.304/20 rev.1](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=CIDI/doc.&classNum=304&lang=e).)
* On August 24, 2021 the MB/IACD approved US$1.7 million in seed funding ([AICD/JD/DE-130/21](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=130&lang=e)) and on November 2, 2021 added US$100,000 ([AICD/JD/DE-131/21](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=131&lang=e)) for a total of US$1.8 million for the 2021-2024 programming cycle. (The addition came as a response to the inclusion of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as a beneficiary.)
* Eighteen countries are eligible to participate in the 2021-2024 OAS/DCF programing cycle and implement a project under one of the four above themes. This year, fifteen projects had their execution plans approved and have begun implementation. As of the last quarter of 2022, four programs are experiencing implementation delays due to internal administrative processes or have initiated a restructuring exercise to better meet their country’s needs.

**OBJECTIVE 5.1**

Foster bilateral, South-South, triangular, and international cooperation in the Hemisphere

**The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP)**

* Conducted a logistics and international supply chain assessment and drafted an implementation roadmap with a set of legal, operational, and financial recommendations for the development and implementation of the national Port Community System as part of the **Barbados Port Community System** Project.
* Signed a nine-month engagement contract between the GS/OAS and the Government of Belize to study the technical, legal, and financial requirements for the establishment and operation of an Electronic Single Window (ESW), as well as make recommendations on best practices for project implementation. The study, part of CIP’s **Feasibility Study for the Establishment of an ESW for Trade**, will also analyze Belize’s current system for conducting foreign trade.
* Managed the CIP Portal update. The portal, a useful tool for the 34 National Port Authorities and the private sector (associate members and strategic partners), had over 14,000 users this year – a nearly 22 percent increase in traffic compared to 2021 figures.

**OBJECTIVE 5.2**

Foster effective multisector partnerships to help member states meet Sustainable Development Goals.

* Signed an MoU between the University of Chile and the GS/OAS, which will see greater collaboration with the CIP Secretariat towards the design of a new curriculum for a new Inter-American Port Management Master’s Degree Program. Additionally, the University of Chile has generously offered scholarships to CIP National Port Authorities.
* Organized the XXII Meeting of the CIP Executive Board (CECIP), held virtually on March 15, 2022. At the meeting, the Resolution of Colonia, the 2022-2023 operating budget, and the mid-term activity reports from six Technical Advisory Groups and from the CIP Secretariat were approved. Significantly, CECIP approved changes to the CIP Rules of Procedure, which will be presented for approval by the Committee in Plenary during the XIII Regular CIP Meeting in 2023, and then for subsequent onwards submission to CIDI for final approval.
* Awarded four Maritime Awards of the Americas and three honorary mentions to public and private institutions from Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, and Peru for their distinguished practices in Competitive Digitalization, Cybersecurity in Ports and/or Terminals, Green Port Operations and Sustainable Management, Empowerment and Equality, and Outstanding Women in the Port Sector.
* Awarded, in collaboration with the American Association of Port Authorities, three Port Industry Awards of Excellence to public and private institutions from Brazil and Peru for their successful practices in Technology and Innovation, Port Infrastructure Development, and Public-Private Partnerships.
* Participated in four virtual events in Latin America and the Caribbean organized by CIP Strategic Partners or Associate Members, discussing current trends and ongoing port sector challenges.
* Incorporated one new Associate Member from Argentina. Puerto Dock Sud joined the CIP in November.

**CONCLUSION**

SEDI’S EFFORTS IN 2023 AND BEYOND

A transition away from a global pandemic has brought with it a shift towards a new global crisis: climate change. Looking ahead, it is imperative the thrust of climate change movements across the Hemisphere be absorbed into SEDI’s programming efforts. In the following years, SEDI will re-tool its areas of strategic focus—not unlike its repositioning during the pandemic—to guarantee climate change is the salient cross-cutting theme on its agenda. Aggressive changes will need to be made—between governments, between organizations, and between citizens of each OAS member states—to ensure we continue to uphold the OAS mandate of “More rights for more people”. The consequences are otherwise dire; the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean notes that the region comprises “thirteen out of the 50 countries most affected by climate change.” The significant progress SEDI and similar organizations made in navigating the region through the pandemic will be lost if we do not act accordingly.

At stake is the welfare of the entire region. Inclusive, competitive economies cannot exist if a pronounced reliance on fossil fuels continues to dictate the region’s energy policies. They can exist if greener alternatives—ones reducing greenhouse emissions—are studied, developed, and implemented as sustainable alternatives. SEDI cannot implement Sustainable Development Goals if funds need to be diverted instead to disaster and emergency relief budgets. They can be achieved if programming efforts create more environmentally resilient societies and promote the ecological conditions required to protect coastlines and riverbeds. Consistent access to quality education is difficult to guarantee for populations continually displaced by the effects of climate change. It can be guaranteed if those populations weren’t forced to migrate, and teachers, local leaders, and citizens become environmental stewards of their own community, fighting for their right to human development. Decent, dignified, and productive work cannot thrive in systems where the environment is destroyed for material gain. It can thrive in concert with sustainable agriculture practices, and in systems working to promote labor equity as part of the formal economy. Genuine cooperation and partnerships—the kind so many member states depend on—cannot fulfil their mandates if they do not consider the effects of climate change, and, ultimately, what is at stake for the region. Partnerships can only make the impacts that SEDI demands of its stakeholders if climate change mitigation efforts are embedded in all future programming efforts.

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1. . Only for those abbreviations which appear more than once throughout this report. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)