

TOWARDS A REGION OF KNOWLEDGE:

BILATERAL FORUM ON HIGHER EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

Current status of cooperation in higher education, innovation and research between Mexico and the United States

The level of academic, technical and scientific exchange between Mexico and the United States cannot be compared with the intensity of its trade and political relationship. Mexico, with 116 million inhabitants, only sends **14,000** students a year to the United States, and **4,000** U.S. students take courses for academic credit in Mexico each year.

South Korea, with a population of 49 million, sends 72,000 students a year.



CURRENT SITUATION

- Mexico ranks **9th** as a country of origin for international students in the United States (14,000 students), below countries such as South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and Vietnam.
- In the US, Mexico ranks **13th** as a destination country in the world (4,000 students) and 3rd in Latin America, after Costa Rica and Argentina.

There are many collaboration initiatives between universities, research and academic centers from both countries. However, they must have a strategic orientation, be linked with the realities and opportunities of the productive sector, and be compatible with the priorities of economic development and the promotion of competitiveness.

Mexico has a strong educational offer, at competitive prices. However, it requires a greater promotion of its education programs in the United States.

Both nations could gain huge benefits, beyond the monetary, if they significantly foster the teaching of Spanish in the United States and English in Mexico.

BILATERAL COOPERATION SUCCESS CASES

- United States-Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (COMEXUS)
- *UCMexUS*: Agreement of the University of California-CONACYT, with the participation of researchers from Mexican universities.
- Scientific cooperation: Large Millimeter Telescope and HAWC Gamma Rays Observatory

Bilateral Forum on Higher Education, Innovation and Research (FOBESII)

In May 2013, the Presidents of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, and the United States, Barack Obama, announced the formation of the Bilateral Forum. It is envisaged as a strong association between governments, higher education institutions, civil society and the private sector of Mexico and the United States.

In addition to seeking a 21st century labor force which will allow the region to become prosperous, the mission of the Bilateral Forum is to foster the mutual understanding between both countries through programs addressing student mobility, academic exchange, research and innovation in areas of shared interest and to contribute to the competitiveness and economic development of the region.

The Forum will develop a shared vision regarding educational cooperation and will propose specific short and medium-term initiatives in order to promote bilateral cooperation and policy coordination. It is comprised of representatives from relevant governmental institutions and other key stakeholders.

Bilateral technical meetings will be held on issues such as workforce development; student and academic mobility; research, technological development and innovation, partnerships and promotion.

VISION: TOWARDS A REGION OF KNOWLEDGE

Mexico and the United States are jointly working to transform North America into a prosperous, competitive and inclusive region, based on knowledge, that promotes sustainable development by boosting bilateral cooperation in higher education, innovation and scientific research.

Proyecto 100,000 is a Mexican proposal that sets the goal of 100 thousand Mexican students going to study to the United States and 50 thousand U.S. students studying in Mexico by 2018. It also proposes the multiplication of binational research and innovation centers, language teaching, and the promotion of exchange opportunities.

This complements the initiative by U.S. President Barack Obama called '100,000 Strong in the Americas' which seeks to send 100 thousand U.S. students to study at Latin American universities and vice versa.

In order to attain these goals, a broad-ranging participation by higher education institutions, research and innovation centers and the development of knowledge networks is required,

Mexico and the United States agree higher education, innovation and research are a key driving force in order to strengthen competitiveness and prosperity of both nations, to transform North America into a region of knowledge.

Mexico's **Proyecto 100,000** initiative complements President Obama's 100,000 Strong in the Americas initiative.