



Shared Visions Challenges in Democratic Participation in Education

Program Democratic Principles Strengthened through
Education and Policy Dialogue

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Content Summary

- “Shared Visions” Series 1 showcases the responses to the pre-webinar survey provided by 13 countries in the region regarding the six thematic areas of the DEMEP program.
- In this series, we will explore the shared perspectives on Challenges and Programs in Democratic and Civic Participation.
- There is a significant gap concerning the challenges in Democratic Participation across the region: 6 out of 10 countries that responded to the survey face challenges in this area.

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Shared Visions on the Challenges of Democratic Participation



Specific Challenges in the Countries



Costa Rica:

There is a legal gap in monitoring the management of school boards, and many lack the knowledge and skills needed to manage resources and projects in educational centers effectively.



Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru and Uruguay:

Authoritarian culture and adult-centrism limit student participation, discouraging the expression of opinions, open debate, and collective decision-making. Children and adolescents are not recognized as rights holders. The approach to student participation primarily focuses on those in the upper levels of education, neglecting younger students.



Guatemala and Mexico:

Building a shared vision for schools, establishing effective communication, and fostering a sense of belonging, trust, respect, and commitment remains a constant challenge.

Nine out of ten countries that responded to the survey are implementing citizen participation programs

1. Incorporation of Citizen Participation in the Curriculum:

Guatemala's National Base Curriculum includes civic education as a central pillar.

2. School Governments and Student Councils:

In Ecuador, programs for school governments or student councils have been implemented to promote democratic participation.

3. Youth Participation Programs and Activities:

Through initiatives such as the Mercosur Youth Parliament in Argentina and educational camps, countries encourage youth participation in discussions on social and political issues.

4. Initiatives for Coexistence and Peace:

Peace Education programs and projects like the National Plan for Coexistence and Participation promote respect for human rights and a culture of peace in the school environment.

5. Participatory Budgeting Projects:

In the Dominican Republic, pilot projects for participatory budgeting have been implemented, allowing students and the educational community to decide on the allocation of resources.

6. Community and Family Participation:

The involvement of parents and guardians in the educational process is another key element. Several countries have committees and school boards that engage the community in decision-making.

Conclusions

Six out of ten countries face challenges in the area of democratic participation. The main challenges are related to the lack of participatory platforms, insufficient training, and adult-centrism.

Nine out of ten countries develop citizen participation programs. The main initiatives include community involvement in councils, civic education, and participatory budgeting.

Shared Visions

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