STRATEGIC PLAN
2017–2022

Approved by IOHE’s General Assembly on November 25, 2016
"I aspire to establish an Inter-American chain of universities which transcends all political, geographical, economic, ideological, or social boundaries and jointly works to improve and strengthen each of its linkages.

“I had observed a lack of knowledge and a deplorable lack of collaborative linkages between universities in South and North America. There existed great potential for exchange between the institutions that belonged to the same continent. What’s more, there were not any organizations that managed these institutions as a collective group. I therefore believed that the solution could lie in the creation of such an institution.

“The action of the organism rests upon the vision of the true role of the university, which is, in fact, a social role. There exists in each community, in each nation and in each country, an indispensable engine for social improvement, and this engine is the university. Furthermore, the university functions as a service to the community, and owes, by virtue of this fact, its existence to the public. Thanks to its activities geared towards the higher education institutions, the IOHE contributes to leading its people towards political, social and economic freedom.”

Gilles Boulet – IOHE’s OPENING CONGRESS 1980
IOHE’S STRATEGIC IDENTITY

MISSION
Contribute to the transformation in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to better tend to their social and political contexts, while building and innovating common spaces of Inter-American collaboration in coordination with its members and other strategic partners.

VISION
Be the reference as Inter-American leader and strategic ally of HEIs in consolidating their role as drivers of social change and overcome social inequalities and promote the development of a knowledge society.
IOHE’S VALUES

ETHICS

Promote the training of ethical individuals and implement a culture of honesty and transparency manifested in principles, norms and institutional policies that guide the accountability of the decisions and actions implemented by IOHE.

INTER-AMERICANISM

Foster dialogue and collaboration among diverse stakeholders in the Higher Education sector in order to establish relations of affinity and a sense of continental belonging conducive to the development of the global citizenship and wellbeing of our societies.

INNOVATION

Promote collaborative environments that fuel a culture of innovation marked by creativity, social responsibility and the implementation of new proposals that generate value for societal transformation and sustainable development.

EQUITY

Encourage inclusion and interaction in higher education among diverse social, cultural, gender and linguistic groups of the continent based on the respect of gender and identity while fostering mutual understanding for the betterment of our societies.
FIRST AXIS: SOCIAL COMMITMENT

Strengthen and broaden the initiatives that stimulate transformations in HEIs that lead to the fulfilment of their social mission.

Corresponding Strategic Initiatives:

1.1. Uphold the Space for Women Leaders from Higher Education Institutions in the Americas (EMULIES) as a mechanism of inclusion and social justice with equity;
1.2. Promote the Inter-American Space for Technical and Technological Institutions of Higher Education (EIESTEC) in all regions of the Americas;
1.3. Consolidate the activities of SOCIAL CAMPUS as the common space where HEIs can share successful practices related to social commitment and their relation with their environment;
1.4. Implement, promote and consolidate the Inter-American Prize for Educational Innovation in Higher Education (MEIN) for HEIs of the Americas and thus encourage innovative practices in the field of higher education.
SECOND AXIS: INNOVATION

Broaden the initiatives and innovative practices that may facilitate the transformation of the HEIs and their environment.

Corresponding Strategic Initiatives:

2.1. Build a collaborative space for the development of innovation ecosystems and innovation management capacity in the HEIs of the Americas;
2.2. Promote actions related to Social Innovation in HEIs in the Americas as a way to strengthen the links with their environment and improve the quality of life of their communities;
2.3. Develop, in collaboration with HEIs, initiatives related to the Management of Innovation Environments to promote the culture of entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems;
2.4. Promote synergies among the HEIs of the Americas to strengthen the Management of Research and Innovation;
2.5 Establish a mechanism that allows for HEIs in the Americas to exchange on best practices related to innovation.
THIRD AXIS: INTERNATIONALIZATION

Consolidate and expand the offer of mechanisms for comprehensive internationalization in order to improve the quality in services and promote the institutional transformation of HEIs in the Americas in accordance with the demands and challenges of their environments.

Corresponding Strategic Initiatives

3.1. Consolidate the Conference of the Americas on International Education (CAIE) as the forum - par excellence – in which the HEIs of the Americas can update, articulate and promote international collaboration among different actors and stakeholders;

3.2. Assist in the creation and consolidation of National Networks dedicated to the promotion of internationalization of higher education across the Americas in line with current trends;

3.3. Broaden training opportunities for capacity building related to the Internationalization of Higher Education in key subjects such as internationalization of the curriculum, of graduate programs, research and innovation, among others;

3.4. Promote interinstitutional cooperation in order to achieve a harmonious advancement of internationalization of HEIs across the Americas;

3.5. Implement Virtual Mobility among members of IOHE as a means to facilitate internationalization through the exchange of successful practices and the promotion of institutional collaboration;

3.6. Promote the professionalization and certification of Senior International Officers (SIOs) in order to ensure quality and continuous improvement of internationalization across the continent.
FOURTH AXIS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Promote, from an Inter-American perspective, the efforts and initiatives of HEIs that contribute to the sustainable development of the continent.

Corresponding Strategic Initiatives

4.1. Contribute to the promotion and implementation of programs and activities that supported on scientific evidence, increase awareness of the environmental challenges and the importance of protecting the natural patrimony of the Americas;

4.2. Assist in the articulation of research Consortia and specialized networks that may serve as platforms on which to share information, data or successful practices on the subject of sustainable development;

4.3. Facilitate the collaboration among HEIs in order to implement inter-american projects related to Efficient and Green Campuses;

4.4. Guarantee a forum within the CAIE in which to promote a continental dialogue around the sustainable development agenda related and in line with international trends and the provisions of international agreements;

4.5. Promote commitment to sustainable development with the creation of an Inter-American Prize to acknowledge institutional best practices and student projects or proposals that contribute to the advancement of the agenda across the Americas.
FIFTH AXIS: ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Enhance the offer of training opportunities in the field of innovative management of HEIs and consolidate the governance of IOHE while adapting to global changes.

**Corresponding Strategic Initiatives**

5.1. Assemble a working group to inform and support the reflection around matters of Quality Assurance (certification, accreditation, rankings, etc.) and Competency Accreditation pertinent to member HEIs;

5.2. Consolidate the Institute for University Management and Leadership (IGLU) as a program of excellence through the implementation of an interactive database in which to gather best practices and competitive intelligence, promote collaboration and the exchange of relevant information among graduates of the program for the betterment of member HEIs;

5.3. Systematize IOHE’s Internal Management through the implementation of innovative management methods, technological tools and efficient administrative processes in order to facilitate the interaction and collaboration among the different programs and regional centres that make up the Organization;

5.4. Establish principles and mechanisms of internal and external management that promote gender equity in each of IOHE’s initiatives and programs;

5.5. Strengthen the processes of IOHE’s Regional Management by implementing practices of good governance in higher education and supported on the principles of ethical leadership and sustainable development;

5.6. Continue the deliberation regarding IOHE’s Foundation as a tool for the procurement of funding from external resources in order to guarantee the viability of the projects and activities listed in the Plan of Activities of the Organization and its regions.