



Consejo Árabe para las Ciencias Sociales (ACSS)

المجلس العربي للعلوم الاجتماعية



## THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH

## PROJECT SUMMARY

The proposal consists in building a **Knowledge Network, The Right to Education: Perspectives from the Global South** that includes Latin American, Caribbean, Arab region, Asia and Africa hubs. The network is projected as including multi stakeholders such as academics, teachers, educational policy decision-makers, students, persons who may speak on behalf of alternative and diverse educational experiences, members participating within social organizations and representatives of international associations and networks related to various problem areas that the Network will approach.

The Network goals will be the exchange and collaborative action among political and social organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean, the Arab region, Africa and Asia. One of the challenges will be to guarantee multilingualism and translation in order to ease horizontal communication and mutual recognition. In addition, the Network also aims to produce tools and strategies that further ensure the right to education on equal terms and to influence corresponding public policies, not only locally but also at national levels and in the Global South. The Network will establish South-South communication dynamics to compare and share experiences from different perspectives to study and understand local and global realities and cause an impact on policies, especially those related to inequalities, inclusion and recognition of subordinated and most vulnerable groups, not only during the pandemic but also afterwards.

Taking into account the situation of the right to education from a perspective of recognition of diversities, equity and inclusion, the work to revert the tendencies towards commodification and also the capacities of the three founding institutions of this network, it will concentrate, during the grant two-year duration, on higher education to cover a regional need and in the global South.

The three Councils are aware of the vital interrelationship between all education levels -higher, secondary, primary- and the need to expand the work to address all levels of education in all 3 regions.

However, in this initial phase, due to issues related to each Council's current areas of expertise, financial resources and capacities, the three collaborating organizations will focus on higher education in the current proposal, considering its articulation with the secondary level. The expansion of the areas of action to other educational levels is a medium-term objective of the Network.

It is important to mention however, that although the initial focus will be on higher education, the transition between secondary and higher education will also be considered. To deepen our understanding of the right to education and the related social justice issues, this transition is very important in determining who is admitted into universities and is likely to graduate from them.

Also, as part of the Network will be created an Observatory to communicate and disseminate the results and research advances developed by the Network as well as engaging in dialogue with other organizations.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

In light of the diagnosis performed, networking is necessary. The project thus proposes to build a collaborative, cooperating and articulated Network with the plan to identify the common axis based on the recognition of diversities.

The Network will work in the field of public policies, supporting advocacy and research actions, including research-action experiences and sharing practices and learning from mutual knowledge and dialogue of knowledge from the Global South. It is based on paradigms, perspectives and realities emerging from the Global South as well as de-colonial approaches based on diversity, inclusion and equity.

## **GENERAL PURPOSE**

To build a Network that brings together intellectual leaders, researchers, activists, teachers, students, communities' members and those from different social spaces involved discussing paradigms in the defense of right to education from the Global South. As this involves native speakers of a great diversity of languages, means will be sought to assure that a multilingual conversation is employed, through variants of as many languages as possible be used as well as translation of the more important outcomes.

## **SPECIFIC GOALS**

- To promote a Network for the exchange and collaborative action among political and social organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Arab region, Africa and Asia, guaranteeing multilingualism and translation to ease a horizontal communication and mutual recognition.
- To develop and share tools, strategies and experiences that ensure the equal right to education and influence the corresponding public policies, not only at local but also at national levels as well as in the Global South.
- To establish South-South mechanisms to compare and share experiences from the perspective of diverse histories and current situations of each region, so as to create alternatives to study, understand and have an impact upon particular and global educational realities.
- To articulate a common position and establish a dialogue with international organizations, funding agencies and significant stakeholders from the Global North, within a framework of mutual recognition.
- To study and understand the different educational manifestations of inequalities, the right to education, inclusion and recognition of the subordinated and most vulnerable groups, not only during the pandemic but also after it, and to identify commonalities and singularities of each region and compare them with each other.
- To establish an Observatory on the right to education from the Global South as a collaborative, multi-stakeholder and interrelated public platform, in order to communicate and disseminate the network's outcomes and to promote advocacy actions with the results of research produced by the network.

## **TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **THE NETWORK MAIN FUNCTIONS:**

Association activities, training activities, research and data acquisition/collection activities, advocacy actions with social movements and public policies, comparative studies and regional reports.

### **THE OBSERVATORY MAIN FUNCTIONS:**

Communication of research results produced by the network, public face of the Network outcomes, dialogue with the Global North and the Global South, Communication web portal, translations based in multilingualism and to generate digital contents for dissemination.

Every material shall be produced following the Open Science principles (including Open Access) and multilingualism.

## PROYECT OUTCOMES

With the implementation of this Network and its consolidation, practice and knowledge communities are expected to develop to achieve the following impacts and results:

- Strengthening public education systems in the following aspects: funding, democracy and participation, strengthening of the educational stakeholders (students and teachers' work), reduction of the mechanisms of privatization, discrimination and segregation.
- Promoting freedom of thought and opinion, academic and intellectual freedom, decolonization of curricula, dialogue of knowledge, reduction of censorship situations and restrictions to the right of education, to educational justice and the work of teaching.
- Fortifying the struggle against inequality and discrimination in all its forms by promoting gender rights, dissidence and LGBTQI+, ethnical-racial issues, the rights of migrant people, acknowledgement of diversities, the educational methods of indigenous people, the promotion of interculturality and of language rights.
- Providing evidence based research from three regions of the Global South that would contribute to the discussion of the status of education including market valorization (or "commodification") of education processes and promotion of actions to fight against it.
- The consideration of policies to reduce persisting and emerging inequalities in education (structural, socio-educational, territorial), with special emphasis on the reduction of educational inequalities that have been generated in pandemic and post-pandemic times.
- Proposals for on-site education recovery and for non-excluding hybrid patterns of formal education after the Covid-19 pandemic and its after-effects from the perspective of human rights, democracy, diversity and equality.

## MANAGING RISKS

One of the possible risks of this proposal is related to the Covid-19 pandemic, including difficulties in internet connections that may affect the different countries involved and may limit or postpone the actions and practices planned for delimiting indicators and projecting and disseminating results.

Said risk will mitigate exploiting all the digital, teleworking and remote

communication tools available from the capacity CLACSO, ACSS and CODESRIA have in these areas. The Network shall rely on a collaborative teleworking digital platform and a web site accessible to the public.

The second risk identified relates to the different languages coexisting in the Network and the need of translation.

This risk will be mitigated by working from a multilingual perspective and considering translation processes in activity planning.

A third risk expected before the possible breach of commitments assumed by one of the network hubs.

The mitigation of this risk is anticipated through the subscription of a commitment letter by each institution incorporated to the Network, in which responsibilities, rights and obligations to be assumed when entering the Network will be explained. This will imply a periodical and systematic follow-up of activities and achievement of goals, as well as the evaluation, review and adaptation of the working plans according to realities, capacities and limitations identified in the process of creation of the Network.