

# Erasmus+ National Policy Reviews 2024 Paraguay



## Paraguay

### Contributor

**ENFP for Paraguay:** Daniel Alfredo Perez Gonzalez  
Ministry of Education

This national policy review provides a detailed analysis of Paraguay's educational policies and their alignment with the Erasmus+ programme. It offers official, first-hand information into the country's engagement with Erasmus+ from 2021 to 2024, highlighting opportunities for improvement and identifying strategies to enhance integration and outcomes. Prepared and submitted by the Erasmus+ National Focal Point, this review contributes to ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation and to maximise the benefits of the Erasmus+ programme in Paraguay.

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## Reviews of policies, initiatives, projects, and/or stakeholders

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### Regional Academic Mobility Programme for Accredited Degrees (MARCA)

It is a programme for degree courses accredited by the MERCOSUR Regional Accreditation System that seeks to strengthen these courses, fostering the internationalisation of higher education in the region and fulfilling the central objective of regional integration.

<https://programamarca.siu.edu.ar/>

### Don Carlos Antonio López Scholarship Programme (BECAL)

BECAL is an academic excellence programme and an emblem of the Paraguayan Government. It is aimed at university graduates who want to pursue postgraduate studies abroad. It seeks to strengthen R&I and education by improving Paraguay's supply of advanced human capital. It is financed jointly with FEEI, IDB, and the Ministry of Economy and has international agreements or alliances with universities and agencies.

The BECAL Programme offers scholarships for postgraduate studies (masters, doctorates, post-doctorates) abroad. Postgraduate scholarships are offered in two modalities:

- Self-managed: the candidate must apply for admission to foreign universities following the specifications of the international rankings for the different programmes
- Assisted mode: the admission process to the university abroad is done through specialised agencies with which BECAL has signed agreements.

<https://becal.gov.py/>

### MODESPAR in the framework of the Erasmus+ Capacity Building Structural project

MODESPAR's main goal is to improve Paraguay's higher education system by developing new models and quality standards that match international practices, to . This will help achieve the country's goals for better quality and international integration in higher education and social development.

### Project «Strengthening research management in higher education institutions in Bolivia and Paraguay/ INNOVA» in the framework of the Erasmus+ Capacity Building Structural Programme

This project seeks to promote research and dissemination on Climate Change in Universities in Bolivia and Paraguay. It aims to be a reference in the Research Framework and obtain results that contribute value to international society. In this regard, it is noted that the INNOVA project is composed of 11 partners, universities in Paraguay and Bolivia, the Ministry of Education and Science of Paraguay (MEC), and the Ministry of Education of the Plurinational State of Bolivia INNOVA Project.

<https://www.innova-project.eu/>

### Paraguayan Journal of Education

It is an indexed academic publication that aims to promote a space for the debate of ideas on education in Paraguay and at the regional level. It is managed by the General Directorate of Educational Research (DGIE), a publicly managed academic body within the Ministry of Education and Science (MEC), in collaboration with the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI) and Editorial Santillana.

<https://oei.int/coleccion/revista-paraguaya-de-educacion>

### Nucleus of Studies and Research in Higher Education of MERCOSUR

This is part of the MERCOSUR Education Sector (SEM) initiative led by the Higher Education Area Commission (CAES). The initiative includes publishing the digital journal “Integración y Conocimiento”, funding academic research networks focused on key higher education issues in MERCOSUR, and organizing seminars, courses, studies, and publications.

<https://nemocosur.siu.edu.ar/>

### Project Boosting Educational Quality in Paraguay through Learning Outcomes; Technical and Vocational Training; and the National System of Professional Qualifications

This project, funded by the European Union and the Organisation of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture, aims to improve educational quality through enhanced learning outcomes for Paraguayan students in basic school education and secondary education and the installation of an updated system of technical and vocational education and training.

<https://oei.int/oficinas/paraguay/impulsando-la-educacion/el-proyecto>

### Agreement on the Recognition of Higher Education Degrees in MERCOSUR

The purpose of the Agreement is to recognise degree qualifications that are officially valid in the country where they were issued, provided they meet the Agreement's requirements. In Paraguay, the Agreement is being reviewed by the following Senate commissions: a) Legislation, Codification, Justice, and Labor; b) Foreign Affairs and International Affairs; and c) Culture and Education.

<https://silpy.congreso.gov.py/web/expediente/121464>

### MERCOSUR Framework Agreement for the recognition of studies, degrees and diplomas in higher education, technical-vocational, technological, artistic and teacher training and education

The Agreement, approved by Decision N° 16/21, recognises studies and diplomas to facilitate the integration and mobility of students and graduates of educational systems.

<https://www.mre.gov.py/tratados/>

### Plan for the Internationalisation of Higher Education

In the context of the 2018-2024 Education Action Plan, efforts were made to design the plan using a dialogical approach. This approach helped gather information about Paraguay's internal needs and the importance of cooperating internationally. The goal is to create a supportive and collaborative policy for the internationalisation of higher education in Paraguay. This will help the country improve its ability to offer inclusive and high-quality education. The plan is currently under review and will be presented soon.

### Adjustment of the processes of recognition and recognition of foreign degrees is under discussion

To optimise the process, redesigning the processes of recognition and recognition of higher education degrees obtained abroad is under discussion.

### National Agency for the Evaluation and Accreditation of Higher Education (ANEAES)

It is the institution responsible for evaluating and accrediting the quality of higher education in Paraguay for its continuous improvement.

<http://www.anaaes.gov.py/>

### **National Council of Higher Education (CONES)**

It is the body responsible for proposing and coordinating policies and programmes for developing higher education in Paraguay, created by Law No. 4995/2013.

<https://cones.gov.py/>

### **National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT)**

CONACYT is the governmental body responsible for ST&I, and Quality. It formulates, coordinates, promotes, evaluates, and implements public policies for scientific and technological development, innovation, and quality to contribute to Paraguay's sustainable development.

<https://www.conacyt.gov.py/>

### **Organisation of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI)**

It is an international intergovernmental body for cooperation between Ibero-American countries in the fields of education, science, technology, and culture in the context of integral development, democracy, and regional integration.

<https://oei.int/oficinas/paraguay>

### **International and Institutional Relations Network of Paraguay (RIUP)**

It is a network integrated by public and private universities in Paraguay that carries out joint actions to promote the internationalisation of higher education.

### **University Association of Public Universities of Paraguay (AUPP)**

AUPP is a non-profit Civil Association of Public Utility, governed by Public Law, that unites the Public Universities of Paraguay. Its goal is to strengthen the university system and foster a positive relationship between the State and the Public Universities of Paraguay. This is done within the framework of the country's Constitution and the laws that regulate national higher education, as well as in collaboration with national and international educational organisations, all for the benefit of society.

<https://aupp.edu.py/>

### **Paraguayan Association of Private Universities (APUP)**

It is a non-profit institution that brings together the leading private universities in the country to enhance the quality of education at its member institutions and improve the overall quality of higher education in the country.

<https://www.apup.org.py/>