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FEDERACIÓN DE INSTITUCIONES MEXICANAS[®]
PARTICULARES DE EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR, A.C.

Cross-Border Accreditation in Mexico

FIMPES

(Federation of Mexican Private Institutions of Higher Education)

CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG)

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FIMPES

Secretary General

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COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

FIMPES (Federation of Mexican Private Higher Education Institutions)



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- A private independent 35 years old organization, the only higher education institutional quality accreditation agency in Mexico.
- Voluntary membership: 110 Private Universities (4% of country total) 550, 000 students (54%)
- Mission:
 - * Higher education quality promotion and accreditation.
 - * Represent & defend Private Universities interests & rights.
- Own Accreditation System oriented to outcomes; special focus on graduate professional performance.





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Background

- Higher Education Institutions #1 objective within their missions: graduate students prepared to succeed in their professional lives.
- Mexican economy and professional labor markets are now mostly oriented to international opportunities & projects.
- Good job opportunities are found in the international companies (MNCs) and export markets/projects.
- Many of Private Universities are now offering an education with international content & exposure, and pursuing international standards.
- An international view and dimension is in the process to be included in our Institutional Accreditation Process; our Accreditation System is aiming towards an international recognition.
- International Accreditations are now being considered for a growing number of Mexican Private Universities to consolidate their Quality assurance strategies.

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However

- As of today, according to CHEA records, Mexico's cross-border quality accreditation is very reduced:
 - * 6 Private Universities accredited by: SACS, WASC, ACICS.
 - * 41 Private (80%)/Public (20%) accredited programs by: ABET, ACBSP, ... AACSB, etc.
- Why so few?
 - * There are no incentives for quality accreditation.
 - * There is still not enough understanding/acceptance of the importance of an International Accreditation in many HEI's.
 - * No government presence/updated regulation regarding Higher Education quality assurance.
 - * Position of US Regional Accreditors regarding International Accreditation.

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Why is cross-border accreditation important and who would it benefit?



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- Universities: improving their educational offer following international standards.
- Families: having better prepared sons/daughters for growing opportunities in the international professional labor markets.
- Graduates: having more/better paid job opportunities.
- Companies: hiring better prepared professionals gaining in competitiveness.
- Quality Accreditation Organizations: improving their own Accreditation Systems.

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FIMPES' actions to support cross-border accreditation in the next 24-36 months

- Keep supporting US-Mexico academic/research mobility agreement.
- Keep strengthening and improving our Accreditation System by being active part of CHEA/CIQG and WASC activities/programs.
- Take actions to adhere, as much as possible, to CIQG Principles; communicate to society.
- Obtain CHEA/CIQG recognition/affiliation.
- Support our Universities (5-10 in next 24 months) looking for International Accreditation.
- Assess carefully if we promote government involvement in our quality assurance efforts.
- Propose incentives for national/international quality accreditation.
Define and communicate our role and responsibilities.



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Conclusions

- As economies and professional labor markets become global...
... and the good attractive jobs and opportunities for our graduates become available in the international arena...
... H.E.I.s should offer a high quality accredited education, based on international standards, to response to society requirements...
... therefore, international (cross-border) accreditation becomes a very important element within universities efforts to demonstrate everybody a much better and positive student outcomes whatever these may be.

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Thank you very much!

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