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The Arcu-Sur System: an accreditation system for South America?

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Discussion questions

- Could the ARCU-SUR System be considered an accreditation system of higher education for South America?
- Is the ARCU-SUR System compatible with other international accreditation systems of higher education?

Answers based on

- Interviews with people who participated in the elaboration and/or implementation of the MEXA/ARCU-SUR System from Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay.
- Analysis of the ARCU-SUR System and the UNASUR documents.

South America

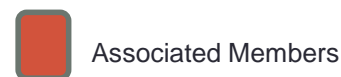


Mercosur



Year	Country	Category of participation
1991	Argentina	Original members
	Brazil	
	Paraguay	
	Uruguay	
1996	Bolivia	Associated members
	Chile	
2003	Peru	Associated member
2004	Colombia	Associated members
	Ecuador	
2012	Venezuela	Member
2013	Guiana	Associated members
	Suriname	
Total	All countries of South America (12)	

Source: Prepared with data obtained from <<http://www.mercosul.gov.br/saiba-mais-sobre-o-mercopol>>.



ARCU-SUR System



Process	Participating States	Courses	Number of Accredited courses	Period
MEXA	Argentina Brasil Paraguay Uruguay + Bolivia and Chile (6)	Agronomy Engineering Medicine (3)	19 29 14 Total: 62	2002-2006
The ARCU-SUR System 1st Cycle	6 + Colombia and Venezuela (8)	Agronomy Architecture Dentistry Engineering Medicine Nursing Veterinary (7)	46 31 11 78 21 22 26 Total: 235 Predicted: 500	2008-2014
The ARCU-SUR System 2nd Cycle	8 + Ecuador (9)	(7) + Economy Geology Pharmacy (10)	Ongoing	2015 - present

Source: Prepared with data obtained from the ARCU-SUR System website:
<http://sistemaarcusul.mec.gov.br/arcusul/pages/pesquisaexterna/pesquisarCursoExterno.seam>.



MEXA



1ST Cycle ARCU-SUR



2ND Cycle ARCU-SUR

ARCU-SUR System's features

- The Accreditation Process is directly linked to the economic bloc;
- National Accreditation Agencies are indicated by the countries;
- The System is coordinated by the Network of National Accreditation Agencies (RANA);
- Voluntary participation of universities;
- Limited number of degrees and just for undergraduate courses;
- Participation of foreign peers from the System's countries;
- The System is in development.

COULD THE ARCU-SUR SYSTEM BE
CONSIDERED AN ACCREDITATION SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION FOR SOUTH AMERICA?

Overlapping

Southern Common Market Mercosur



Union of South- American Nations Unasur



Overlapping

Mercosur

- Plan of Action (2016-2020) of the Educational Sector

Unasur

- Five-Year Operating Plan (2015-2019) of the South American Education Council of the Union of South-American Nations

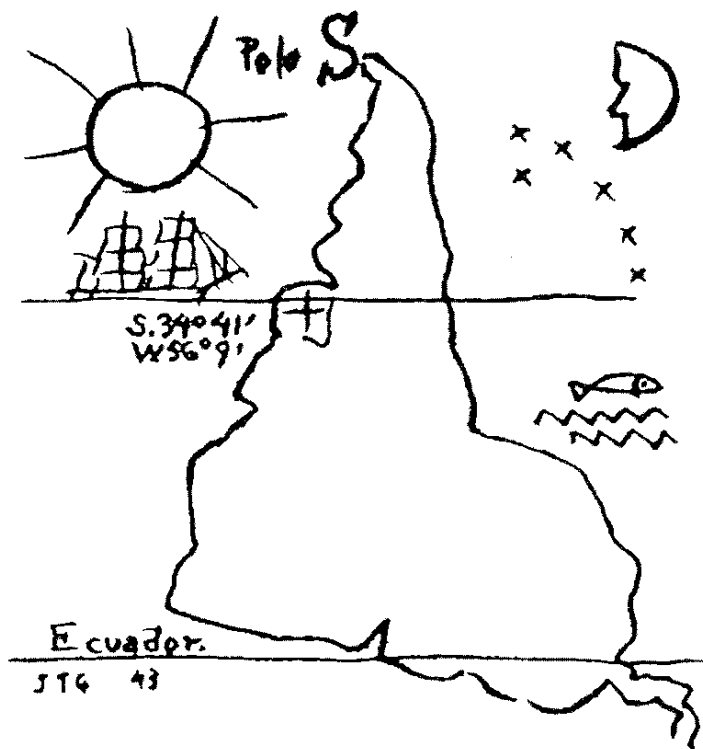
IS THE ARCU-SUR SYSTEM COMPATIBLE WITH
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION
SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION?

It must be considered that...

- The countries' representatives for the accreditation of higher education issues on an international level are, usually, the same;
- This could result in a trend to converge their positions in different international organizations.

Acknowledgments





Thank you
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Aguyjé
Danke

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