



**idp**



# **17TH IDP AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

*securing the FUTURE for International Education:  
Managing growth and Diversity*

A decorative graphic in the bottom-left corner consists of three overlapping colored rectangles: a blue one on top, a yellow one below it, and a red one at the bottom. A red dotted line starts at the top-left corner, goes right, then down, then right again, ending at the top of the blue rectangle. A yellow dotted line starts at the bottom of the red rectangle and goes right across the bottom of the slide.

# The Future of International Development: The Colombian perspective

# Colombia: A gateway to South America



- Four main geographical regions:
  - The Amazon flatlands
  - The Caribbean Coast
  - The Pacific Coast
  - The Andes
- The State and Government:
  - Social State governed by law
  - A unitary and decentralized republic
  - The most stable democracy in Latin America
  - 42 million inhabitants
  - 32 States
  - 1.086 municipalities
  - Official language: Spanish

# The Colombian education system

- A public service with a social function
- The law states that all the Colombians has right to education
- Organization of formal education:
  - Pre-school
  - Basic primary
  - Secondary
  - Intermediate
- Higher education:
  - Graduate:
    - Doctorate
    - Masters
    - Technical diplomas
  - Undergraduate:
    - Professional Technical
    - Technological Institutions
    - University Institutions

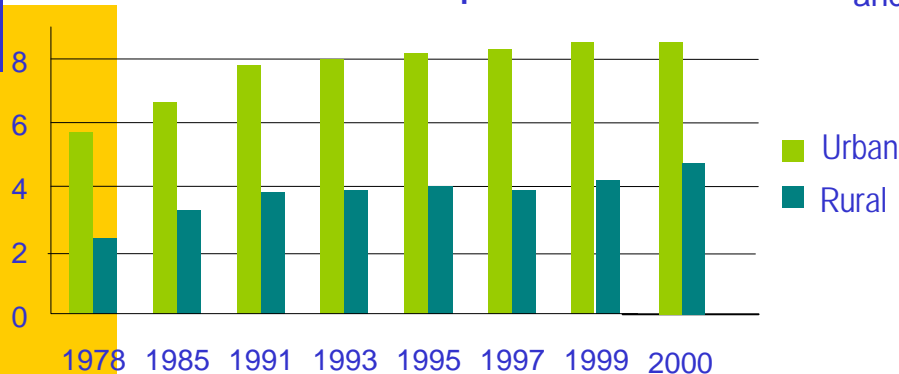
# The Colombian education system

Public spending on education increased from 1.7% of GDP in 1990 to 4.1% in 2001

Students:  
 5 million- primary  
 4.2 million- high school  
 1.2 million- tertiary education

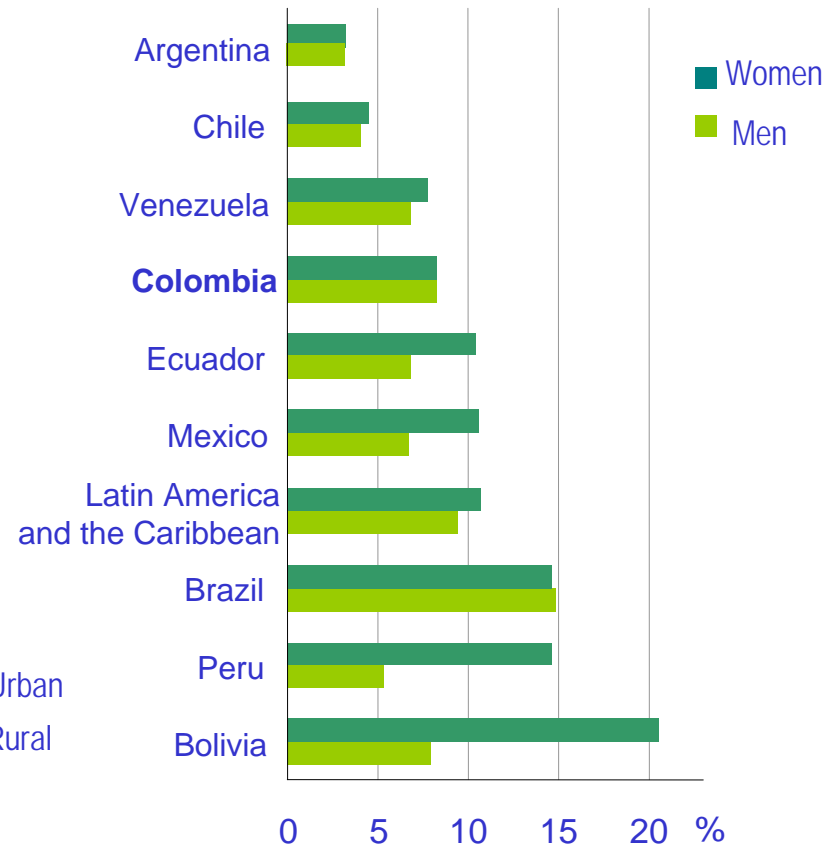
Educational Level 1980-2000

Average School Years of Over 15 Year Old Population



Source: National Planning Department -DNP and ECLAC

Adult Illiteracy Rate - 2000



# The state examination

*ICFES – Colombian Institute for the Promotion of Higher Education*

- Icfes examination is an academic requirement for undergraduate programs in Colombia
- Other State or Government examinations are valid in Colombia

# Visa for students

- Foreigners students must have a visa to register in a higher education program
- Visas are issued by Colombian Consulates abroad
- Foreign students are not authorized to engage in any other occupation that study purposes



# The Academic Calendar

- Two semesters or terms per year
- The first semester starts by end of January
- The second semester starts by end of July

# Some Colombian Government Agencies for higher education

- Ministry of Education
- ICFES – Colombian Institute for the Promotion of Higher Education
- CNA – Colombian Council for Higher Education Accreditation
- CNDM – Colombian Institute for Accreditation Master's Programs and Doctorates
- ICETEX- Colombian Institute for Credit and Finance of Studies Abroad
- COLFUTURO – National Foundation for financial post graduate studies abroad

# Perspectives

- Free Trade Agreement of the Americas. FTAA.
- Quality of Education / Accreditation process
- Strategic alliances. Bogota Universitaria
- A long tradition in higher education
- Education services exports
- Regional Mobility
- Security

# Free Trade Agreement of the Americas: A new scenario for education in progress

- 34 countries
- 800 millions of consumers
- Starting in December 2005
- Impact on the education services trade

Bilateral Free Trade Agreement with the United States  
(Negotiation In process)

# Quality of Education / Accreditation process

- CNA. Colombian Council for Higher Education Accreditation
- Assures Colombian Higher Education Quality
- Facilitates mobility and exchange programs with higher education institutions from abroad
- Establishment of international quality standards

# Strategic alliances. Bogota Universitaria

It is the strategic alliance, created in 2001, among 11 acknowledged higher education institutions in this city, which seek to join forces to facilitate the processes of internationalization, cooperation, and inter-institutional and international relations, as a strategic factor for generating the competitiveness of Bogota and its region.



# A long tradition in higher Education

- Ancient and traditional universities ( Universidad El Rosario, Universidad Santo Tomas y Universidad Javeriana). XVII century
- More than 300 higher education institutions in the country
- More than 1.2 million higher education students
- Multicultural student population (Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia)
- International recognition of Colombian higher education quality

# Education services exports

- Growing institutional interest towards the internationalisation of education services
- Exports programs in process in the Caribbean, Central and South America.
- International alliances with universities from Europe and America
- Remarkable government support to the education services exports
- Very competitive costs in higher education
- Bogota – Cundinamarca fully bilingual region (2020)
- Spanish as a second language

# Regional Mobility

- Student and teachers exchange programs

# Security

- Security standards are improving
- In Bogota, the rate of criminality has decreased up to 50%.
- Comparative criminality rates per 100.000 inhabitants:

Caracas	76
Rio de Janeiro	56
Sao Paulo	48
Bogota	27
Mexico city	20