

# **ICCS Latin American Module Review of experience**

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# Participant countries

- Chile
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- Guatemala
- Mexico
- Paraguay



# Participant countries

# Purpose of the module

- ✓ Investigate variations of civic knowledge and attitudes across 6 Latin American countries, regarding:
  - ✓ Region-specific aspects of civic knowledge
  - ✓ Students' perceptions of public institutions, forms of government, corrupt practices and obedience to the law
  - ✓ Students' dispositions with respect to peaceful coexistence: attitudes towards their country and region, sense of empathy, tolerance of minorities
  - ✓ Contexts for learning about citizenship at home and school as well as within the community

## Description of module

- ✓ In addition to ICCS test and questionnaires, a sample of 30,000 LA students from 1,000 schools were given:
  - ✓ A 15 minute student cognitive test
  - ✓ A 15 minute student questionnaire

# Module implementation

- ✓ Instrument development
  - ✓ Common regional framework (extensive consultation process)
  - ✓ Test and questionnaire items (experts and teachers involvement, technical assistance from IEA)
  
- ✓ Field trial and final test administration to a sample of 30,000 students, under each country's responsibility
  
- ✓ Data processing and reporting (with IEA - ICCS assistance and IDB financial support)

## LA countries in ICCS

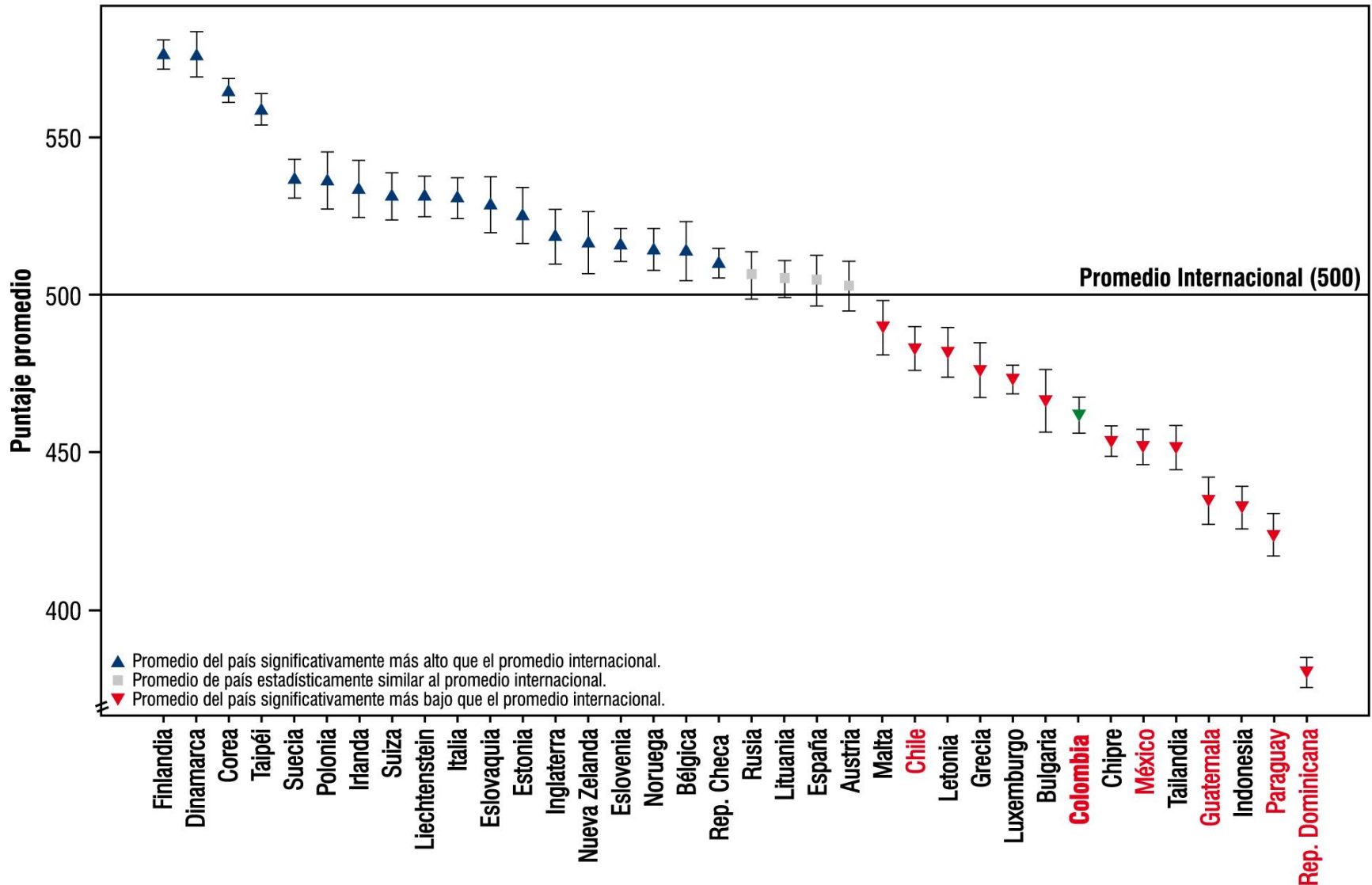
- ✓ The average civic knowledge score in the six LA countries is over half an international standard deviation lower than the average from all participating countries
- ✓ In five LA countries, more than half of the students had civic knowledge achievement scores at or below Level 1
- ✓ Those countries with relatively higher scores on the Human Development Index (Chile, Colombia and Mexico) were also those whose students had higher levels of civic knowledge
- ✓ Civic knowledge in LA countries was strongly associated with family background

## LA countries in ICCS

- ✓ More than half of LA students:
  - ✓ Are not familiar with the concept of representative democracy as a political system
  - ✓ Lack specific knowledge about institutions, systems and / or concepts



# LA countries in ICCS






# LA Module Results

- ✓ More than half of LA students:
  - ✓ Don't know the consequences of dictatorships and the characteristics of authoritarian governments
  - ✓ Are able to identify reasons for the inappropriateness of vigilante justice as well as for bans on providing minors with alcohol and tobacco




# LA Module Results

## LA students:

-  Expressed relatively low levels of trust in political parties, courts of justice and the police
-  Expressed trust in the armed forces, schools and the media
-  Did not accept corrupt practices in government. Male students were more inclined than female students to accept disobedience to the law in some circumstances (when it was considered to be the only way to help one's family)

# LA Module Results

## LA students:

-  Expressed positive attitudes toward their country and had a relatively strong sense of Latin American identity
-  Expressed empathy for classmates experiencing adversity
-  Tended to accept minority groups as neighbors; but the acceptance was lowest for homosexuals or people with AIDS

# Positive Outcomes

- ✓ LA Module created a strong motivation of countries not previously involved in international studies (Regional Project)
- ✓ Establishment of a network of professionals, consultants and researchers from Latin America who contributed to:
  - ✓ Define the LA Module assessment framework based on common purposes of citizenship education
  - ✓ Development of Latin American Module (test and questionnaire)

# Positive Outcomes

- ✓ Development of technical capacity in the six ICCS participating Latin American countries for:
  - ✓ Instruments development
  - ✓ Data analysis (with IEA - ICCS support)
  - ✓ National reports preparation
  
- ✓ Increasing regional interest and funding institutions

# Keys to success

- ✓ Institutional arrangements for implementation
  - ✓ Regional leadership: Executive Secretariat
  - ✓ Regional coordinator
  - ✓ Financial and political IDB support
  - ✓ South – South cooperation
  - ✓ IEA - ICCS technical support

# Shortcomings

- ✓ Low regional participation in ICCS: only 6 of 20 LA countries
- ✓ Sustainability of network and technical capacities subject to existence of Regional Project
- ✓ Low impact in decision making