# Strengthening Science and Technology Systems in Ibero-America: FORCYT Program Overview and Indicator Assessment

**Date**: 2022-01

**Location**: Madrid, España

## Executive Summary

The FORCYT program aims to enhance science and technology systems in Ibero-America by improving the production of indicators related to higher education, science, and technology. The report highlights significant progress in the region’s statistical capabilities, driven by national efforts and regional cooperation since the 1990s. Despite advancements, challenges remain, including the heterogeneity of national systems, limited resources, and the need for better institutional relationships to access primary data. The report emphasizes the importance of developing new indicators, particularly in innovation and public perception of science, while also addressing the need for improved communication of statistical information to diverse audiences. Overall, the program seeks to foster a more robust statistical framework to support informed decision-making in science and technology policy across Ibero-America.

## Characteristics

* The FORCYT program aims to strengthen science and technology systems in Ibero-America through improved statistical indicators and data production capabilities.
* It highlights the progress in producing better science and technology indicators in Latin America, driven by national efforts and regional cooperation.
* The report identifies heterogeneity in national statistical systems, influenced by economic and social development levels, and emphasizes the need for standardized methodologies.
* It discusses the challenges faced by statistical offices, including limited resources, institutional support, and the need for better training and stability of personnel.
* The communication of statistical data is prioritized, with a focus on accessibility and the use of digital platforms to disseminate information effectively.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | European Union; Ibero-American General Secretariat; Organisation of Ibero-American States |
| Research and Innovation Actors | Universities; Research Performing Organisations; Academic Institutions |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Data & Governance | Data Governance; Digital Governance; Data Protection; Data Privacy |
| Technology & Innovation | ICT Innovation; Innovation in Computing |

## Practical Applications

* Implementation of the Program for the Strengthening of Science and Technology Systems (FORCYT) aimed at enhancing the production of indicators in higher education, science, and technology in Ibero-America.
* Establishment of the RICYT (Red Iberoamericana de Indicadores de Ciencia y Tecnología) as a collaborative network to improve the production and dissemination of science and technology indicators across Latin America.
* Development of new indicators beyond the Frascati family, including innovation indicators and public perception of science, to enhance the statistical framework in the region.
* Annual publication of the report “El estado de la ciencia” by RICYT, providing a comprehensive analysis of trends in science and technology indicators.
* Creation of a community of practice among officials from national statistics offices, specialists, researchers, and decision-makers to foster collaboration and improve statistical capacities.
* Implementation of a digital platform by RICYT that allows users to access a wide range of indicators, including comparative tables and dynamic reports, enhancing data accessibility and usability.
* Regular training and capacity-building initiatives for personnel involved in the production of science and technology indicators to improve methodological skills and data processing capabilities.
* Establishment of institutional relationships to facilitate the collection of primary data necessary for the construction of indicators, particularly in education and research sectors.

## Commitments

No specific quantifiable commitments or targets identified.