



Unleashing the potential of our society to transform itself

General Information

Organization name

Vía Educación

Phone number

+52 (81) 1766 1195 & 96

Institutional video

https://youtu.be/nLr_w7ubjUA

Start date operation

May 30, 2005

Organization type

Non-profit organization

Place of registration

Mexico City

Registration (NGO number)

600-04-02-2015-56071



Who We Are

Our History

Vía Educación is a non-governmental, non-profit organization created by three Mexican Harvard School of Education graduates (Marialí Cárdenas, Emanuel Garza Fisburhn and Armando Estrada) in 2005, with the mission of generating opportunities for social sustainable development through the design, implementation, evaluation and dissemination of successful educational strategies. From the very beginning, the organization has worked very closely with schools and teacher professional development initiatives. It has designed different participatory strategies and approaches aimed at increasing and developing citizenship competencies, including but not limited to participation, democratic citizenship, and inter- and intra-personal skills.

Vía Education's backbone is the Participatory Methodology that is used in most of its programs. It was developed by integrating concepts such as social capital, community organizing, systems thinking and democratic citizenship among others, with a blend of service learning and project-based learning strategies to help participants explore, identify and organize their communities and teams to solve issues using their own resources and capabilities, promoting self-agency and self-efficacy. The methodology has reached a wide range of audiences, including teachers who work with students in elementary, middle and high schools; principals, school inspectors and superintendents; young people participating in after school and project-based learning programs; communities and neighbourhoods; business and corporate workers; city councils and community boards.

Summary of our focus and growth over the last few years

In 2014, we ran 162 community initiatives and 491 Social Transformers graduated from our programs, directly affecting over 8,000 people and indirectly over 25,000 people.

In 2015, we increased the reach of our educational programs from 22 to 177 schools, expanded the operations of the Learning Communities program to 5 states of the country, working with more than 650 principals and teachers, increasing student interest in reading and the participation of families in school. The Renewal of School Culture programme also began working in 10 additional preschools and elementary schools.

In 2016, we directly influenced over 25,000 students, teachers, principals, youth and citizens and due to our growing reputation, the Academy for System Change¹, invited us to be part of their Board. In addition, we consolidated our work with youth by working with 20 high school students and 200 middle school students in a programme to develop the sense of co-responsibility of young participants for their own development, that of other young people and that of their communities.

In 2017, we focused on national education policy by integrating two of our programs into the new curriculum developed as part of Mexico's education reforms. We began our online teacher development program Learn Through Participation with 118 teachers. We also started a new programme to strengthen the role of libraries and librarians in the community. Additionally, Vía Educación has recently been asked to join the team reviewing aspects of the curriculum of the national teacher training colleges although quite how this workstream will progress under the new Presidential regime remains to be seen.

Some of Via Education's programs have had external impact evaluations such as Learning Through Participation, which was published by the Journal of Social Science Education (<https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1101889>); as well as an impact report for Learning Communities in Mexico which explored more than 100 schools in different states of the country where the program is being implemented. These have been useful tools to show the impact of our programmes and inform us of their strengths and weaknesses.

Vision

To unleash the potential of our society to transform itself.

Mission

Generate opportunities for sustainable social development through the design, implementation and evaluation of educational initiatives in both formal and non-formal education settings.

¹ <http://www.academyforchange.org/>

Our mission is carried out through four main lines of action:

- 1. Education Quality** - through the training of public school teachers and headteachers.
- 2. Democratic Education** - promoting citizen participation and prevention of aggression.
- 3. Educational Policy** - advocating reforms that impact the entire population, in co-operation with business leaders and committed citizens.
- 4. Social Responsibility** - promoting coordinated efforts among citizens, business groups and public officials.

What we do – Initiatives and Programs

Our models of intervention have a systemic vision that not only expands the range of life options for public school students, but also forms leaders (teachers, head teachers, district supervisors, regional education leaders, librarians, parents, children, youth, and members of the communities) with abilities for collective organization, cooperation and citizenship participation. This results in a better overall quality of both education and of life for participants and their communities.

Throughout its 13-year existence Vía Educación has implemented various educational and community engagement initiatives, mainly in the State of Nuevo León in the North of Mexico. The trust and recognition we have achieved at state, national and international level based on this work, in addition to a close relationship with the Secretary of Education of Nuevo León, has allowed us to gain access to public schools for the implementation of our programs. In recent years, due to success in Nuevo León our programs have generated interest among the government and business sectors in other states, who have contacted us with the intention of replicating our initiatives.

The organization implements the following educational quality programs, which are initiatives for schools and which we recognize as spaces of formal education:

- **Renewal of School Culture:** Working with government school education officials and headteachers in the state of Nuevo León to improve their management and leadership skills. Benefit then passes down to teachers and students and leads to greater participation of parents in school life.
- **Learning Through Participation:** Working with government school education officials, headteachers and teachers, in Mexico City, to provide pedagogical and methodological tools to strengthen the school curriculum and teaching on democracy, citizen participation and sense of belonging.
- **Learning Communities:** Working with headteachers, teachers, students and families with the purpose of increasing students' academic performance, interest in reading and parents' participation in school activities. Implemented in Nuevo León, State of Mexico, Mexico City, Jalisco and Puebla.

It also implements the following programs to enhance civic engagement. These are designed for communities that we recognize as non-formal education spaces:

- **Youth on Time:** Using 16-18-year-old high school students to mentor 12-14-year-old middle school students. Mentors support academically and personally to encourage middle school students to stay in education. Implemented in Santa Catarina municipality, Nuevo León.
- **Community Network:** Working with citizens (kids, young people and adults) in the development of community abilities to generate solutions to problems in their local environment. Implemented in six communities of Nuevo León.
- **Connected Community:** Working with library coordinators, strengthening the role and capabilities of librarians, upgrading offerings of programs and cultural activities and developing networks of community collaboration. Implemented in 18 municipalities of Nuevo León.

The expansion and replication of our projects will allow us to increase the impact for our beneficiaries. Currently our direct and indirect beneficiaries vary according to the specific initiative, but in general, we work directly with youth mentors, teachers, head teachers, district supervisors, regional education leaders, librarians, parents, children, youth, and members of the communities in vulnerable areas within the states in which we operate. Strengthening the capacities of the organization will help build stronger networks of committed individuals and institutions to reshape school culture and expand quality education opportunities.

The continuation and expansion of Vía Education's programs is important because each of the initiatives has in its design our unique methodology, focused on developing lasting capabilities and skills in project participants. Each aims to transform the individual and encourages them to be a catalyst for change in their community. Part of Vía Education's strategy is to implement complementary programs in the same geographical area, therefore when the methodology is implemented in both formal educational environments (schools) as well as in non-formal venues (community), the impact multiplies – the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

Where Do We Work

In 2005, Vía Educación begins its operations in the state of Nuevo León. In 2015, its impact expands to the state of Mexico, Mexico City, Jalisco and Puebla. In 2016, the organization began to explore the replication of its initiatives. In 2017, the replication of the Community Network Initiative 2.0 begins in Jalisco, Chihuahua, Sonora, Sinaloa and Colima. Other projects began its implementation in Chihuahua, Aguascalientes, San Luis Potosí, Guanajuato and Guerrero. Thanks to its growth and different initiatives, the organization has influenced basic education students, educational authorities, teachers, library and librarian coordinators, high school youth and citizens in open communities to be committed and participatory citizens, active in solving the problems of their environment.



5	7	5
<p>States with presence of Vía Educación</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nuevo León 2. Ciudad de México 3. Estado de México 4. Jalisco 5. Puebla 	<p>States who replicate the Community Network Initiative 2.0</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nuevo León 4. Jalisco 6. Chihuahua 7. Sonora 8. Sinaloa 9. Colima 10. Oaxaca 	<p>States that implement Vía Educación methodology in other projects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Chihuahua 11. Aguascalientes 12. San Luis Potosí 13. Guanajuato 14. Guerrero

Awards and Recognitions

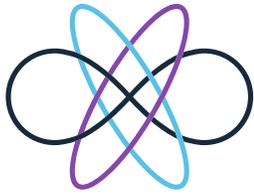
- In October 2018, Confío, A.C. a national evaluator rates Vía Educación in 33 out of 36 points.
- In August 2017, Ashoka Central America and the Caribbean recognize Vía Educación with its initiative Youth on Time as one of the 20 best methodologies of Educational Innovation in Mexico.
- The Academy for Systems Change, which promotes systemic transformation initiatives worldwide, invites Vía Educación in 2016 to form part of its board of directors, being the only Latin American organization participating.
- The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) recognizes Vía Educación in 2015, for being a benchmark in community development issues.
- In 2014, Vía Educación is invited to participate in the Board of Advisor of the National Institute for the Evaluation of Education (INEE).
- Vía Educación received the "Outstanding Humanitarian and Educational Contribution" award from Rotary International in 2014.
- Filantropía A.C. a national evaluator qualifies Vía Educación in 2012 as one of the 10 best organizations in Mexico for its social impact and institutional development; and one of the 3 best organizations in education in the entire country.

Collaboration Networks and Alliances

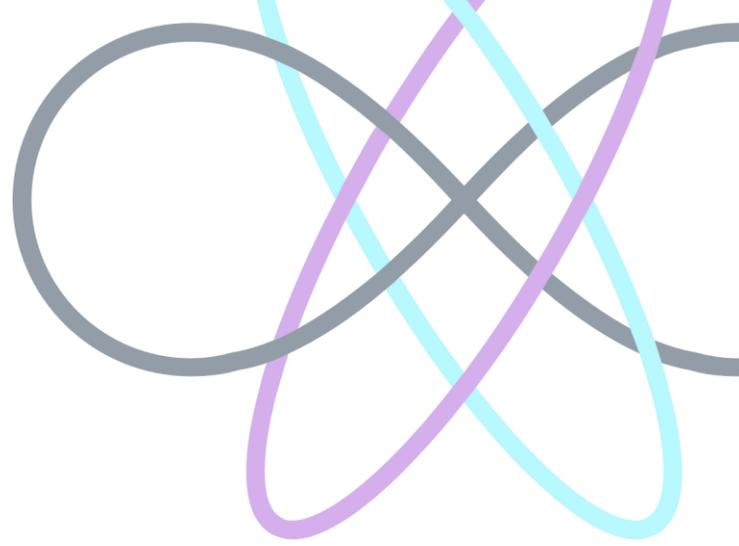
Funders of the different initiatives of Vía Educación: Natura, USAID, Government of the State of Nuevo León, Ternium, Fomento Moral y Educativo Foundation, Cemex, Ministry of Social Development, Frisa Foundation, Jesús M. Montemayor Foundation, among others.

Organizations: Secretary of Public Education in the different states we are present, Ministry of Social Development, Comunidar Foundation, Academy for Systems Change, Inter-American Development Bank, Nuevo Leon Council of Strategic Planning, among others.

Partners: Ashoka, CREA (Community of Researchers on Excellence for All), Harvard University, INEE (National Institute for the Evaluation of Education, IIIIPE (Institute of Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies for Education), ITESM (Technological Institute of Superior Studies of Monterrey), among others.



jóvenes
atiempo



The new generations of co-responsible youth

Jóvenes Atiempo (Youth on Time, in Spanish) is an extracurricular program that seeks to ensure better life opportunities for junior high and high school students, by generating support networks among the participants themselves, through a peer-mentoring model. The high school students receive comprehensive training to become mentors to a group of junior high students from their own communities and, in this way, become the protagonists of their own academic, economic and social development.

General Objective

Develop citizenship competencies in junior high and high school youth, by training young people to become co-responsible for their development and that of their communities through a mentoring model.

There are four components in this program to achieve this objective:

1. **Life Training:** Develop skills of the XXI Century: assertive communication, participative leadership, decision making, problem solving, innovation and creativity.
2. **Vocational Training:** Link with opportunities, professional and educational experiences to encourage the continuity of their studies and bring new opportunities for development.
3. Cultivate a sense of **co-responsibility** for one's own well-being and that of the community.
4. **Support Network:** Strengthen the support network of the individual.

The fundamental element of the program is the **Cascade Mentoring System**. This mechanism multiplies the impact of the program and ensures a cascade-like effect towards the following generations.

Specific Objectives

1. Strengthen the motivation of young people to move to the next level of education, based on the consolidation of support networks through the mentoring model.
2. Link with professional and educational experiences to encourage the continuity of studies and bring educational and professional opportunities, through visits to universities and companies.
3. Cultivate the sense of co-responsibility for the well-being of the community, through the realization of participatory projects.

Profile of the Beneficiaries



High School
mentors



Junior High
students

- They are between 13 and 17 years old
- They are students of junior high and high schools public schools
- They live in conditions of vulnerability
- They share the risk of dropping out of school

Location

Currently the program operates in the municipality of Santa Catarina, in the State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

Annual results of the program

- **20** high school mentors and **200** junior high students
- **20** participatory projects for the benefit of the community
- **2,710** relatives and members of the beneficiary communities

Project sustainability

Like the rest of Vía Educación's programs, Youth on Time has a natural element of sustainability because it is focused on the development of lasting competencies for the participants, which allow them to ensure better opportunities not only today, but also in the future.

In addition, the program seeks to generate a movement from young people, making them co-responsible for the generations that follow them and aligning true and effective incentives for their development. The element

of cascade mentoring is essential in this sense to train not only the current high school generation, but also influences a secondary movement of young active and co-responsible young people for their future. Students who have participated and who now have new job opportunities can be part of the group of professionals responsible for the program to ensure the direction and sustainability of the initiative.

Youth on Time Fund

Currently, Vía Educación together with FRISA Foundation have developed the Youth on Time Fund. The main objective is to generate synergy among key actors to create an enabling environment where the youth of the municipalities of Santa Catarina, San Pedro and Garcia, in Nuevo Leon, manage to become transforming agents of their educational, community and professional development, which will help the expansion of the program in 2019.

Social Network

Youth on Time Institutional Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLYq7vzuhpY&t=1s>

Youth on Time Fund Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNxZhtPFjPs>

Youth on Time 1st Generation - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmHvXfbXtas>

Youth on Time 2nd Generation - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXngh-6Sxzc>