

Press release
Lima, July 21, 2026

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More than 200 organizations join hands to transform education for sustainable communities in Latin America

The V Encuentro brings together representatives from universities, schools, researchers, local and regional educational authorities, nonprofit institutions, and international organizations in Lima, Peru, from July 21-23. Initiated by Siemens Stiftung, the three-day education conference is co-organized by Red STEM Latinoamérica, Instituto Apoyo, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia and CIDSTEM at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso.

The meeting is an innovative and collaborative space that fosters enriching exchanges to strengthen the [STEMplus](#) approach. Under the theme “**Collaborate to Transform: Sustainable Communities and Territories**,” the fifth edition will host hundreds of participants from all across Latin America. They join forces to ideate and execute pathways to tackle educational roadblocks and to shape the future.

From knowledge to action: STEMplus education

“At a time when climate change, digital transformation, and global uncertainty are reshaping our world, education remains our most powerful lever for sustainable development. The interdisciplinary STEMplus approach combines technological skills with critical thinking, creativity, and empathy to empower students and teachers to develop solutions to real-world problems,” says Dr. Nina Smidt, CEO of the international foundation, Siemens Stiftung.

These critical issues will be explored through multiple formats, including in-person sessions, workshops, panels, and live streaming. The opening session will feature Alejandro Piscitelli, the Argentine philosopher and leading voice on digital culture, who will launch the challenge “Hacking Education.” In addition, three “STEM Talks” will bring together Daniel Alfaro, former Minister of Education of Peru; Ana Silva, a schoolteacher; and Johans Ríos, researcher and coach at Magia STEM, to share their experiences in advancing innovative approaches to learning.

An ecosystem transforming communities

A key goal of Red STEM Latinoamérica is to empower teachers as changemakers. Coordinated by the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, the regional network of “STEM+ Teacher Learning Communities” strengthens collaboration among educators across Latin America.

Educators convene to exchange practical experiences, reflect on their teaching practices, and co-create solutions to the challenges in their classrooms and communities. They will participate in workshops on the co-creation of contextualized Open Educational Resources, while dedicated sessions on Climate Change Education will explore the territorial impacts of climate change in Latin America to strengthen collaboration and advance climate action.

“When experiences come together, perspectives broaden, collaborative networks are strengthened, bonds of trust are formed, and new ideas and initiatives emerge,” says Dr. Nina Ibaceta Guerra, researcher at CIDSTEM PUCV and coordinator of the STEM+ Teacher Learning Communities.

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The conference gives youth a voice. 7 women from across the region, including 3 winners of the “Young Climate Scientists Award”, present environmental, health, and inclusive learning projects at the “Young Women in STEM+ Forum”, demonstrating how inquiry-based education hones exploratory and sustainable life skills.

Peru: Epicenter of educational innovation

At the conference, Peru and its capital, Lima, emerge as focal points for advancing quality education and strengthening collaborative action. “Considering cultural diversity, social needs, economic conditions, and sustainable development, the Encuentro will showcase innovative teaching approaches that integrate different areas of knowledge and develop civic competencies to improve people’s lives,” says Mayte Morales, Executive Director of Instituto APOYO.

This commitment is further advanced through the [STEM+ Territories](#) network, comprising 55 territories in 8 Latin American countries. By fostering collective impact partnerships, the territories develop locally rooted educational ecosystems that enable students to thrive in the face of social, environmental, and technological transformations. Peru consolidates this network with STEM+ Territories in Metropolitan Lima and the regions of Arequipa, Cusco, Cajamarca, and Apurímac.

Roadmap for the future: Lima Declaration

The three-day conference will culminate in the “Lima Declaration,” a jointly developed roadmap reaffirming the shared commitment to fostering responsible citizens equipped with 21st-century skills. It underscores the importance of empowering the next generation to contribute to climate action, navigate the culture of digitality, and shape sustainable communities.

Further information:

V Encuentro: <https://encuentroredstemlatam.org/>

Red STEM Latinoamérica

Red STEM Latinoamérica is a regional ecosystem for educational and social innovation, coordinated by the international Siemens Stiftung. It brings together institutions across Latin America and the Caribbean to foster collaboration, exchange knowledge, and advance a shared vision for transforming education.

Guided by the **Monterrey Declaration (2023)**, the network is committed to developing responsible, empathetic, and engaged citizens who actively contribute to building sustainable communities and territories. It promotes *STEMplus* as an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to holistic education that equips learners with the competencies needed to address today's social, environmental, and technological challenges. It brings together more than **200 organizations from 14 countries**, representing governments, academia, schools, teachers, civil society, the private sector, museums, and other formal and non-formal learning environments. Together, they work to drive systemic educational transformation across the region. <https://educacion.stem.siemens-stiftung.org/red-stem-latinoamerica/>

Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH)

Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia is a privately managed, non-profit association and a key player in the national educational landscape in Peru. It has as its

fundamental purpose to transform people into agents of scientific, technological, social, and environmental change through lifelong learning. It prepares professionals with a social and ethical commitment who provide comprehensive, impactful solutions grounded in solid research and respect for diversity and the environment, across undergraduate, graduate, specialization, and continuing education programs. <https://cayetano.edu.pe/>

Center for Research in Science Education and STEM Education (CIDSTEM) at Pontificia Universidad Católica of Valparaíso, Chile

To generate, advance, and apply knowledge in the teaching of science, mathematics, and engineering through a STEM education perspective that promotes the well-being of individuals, communities, and the environment. The center fosters professional development to strengthen teaching and science outreach across biology, chemistry, physics, geography, mathematics, and engineering by bringing together academic, professional, and local knowledge. It also builds strong partnerships between universities, schools, non-formal learning environments, and local communities, serving as a model for advancing science education in the public interest. <https://cidstem.cl/>

Instituto APOYO

An organization founded by the APOYO Group with more than 30 years of experience in the design, management, and implementation of high-impact educational projects and programs in Peru and Latin America. We seek to promote an education for life that contributes to the development of active and competent citizens by fostering 21st-century skills in children and youth. We achieve this through inter-institutional agreements with the Ministry of Education, regional governments, and the private sector. <https://institutoapoyo.org.pe/>

Siemens Stiftung

The non-profit, internationally operative Siemens Stiftung is committed to sustainable social development. Together with individuals and communities, we create opportunities to actively shape social and ecological transformation. Our work focuses on three areas of action: Essential Services, Digitality, and Climate, addressing challenges and harnessing them as opportunities for innovation and positive impact. Through our projects in Education, Social Entrepreneurship, and Culture, we facilitate access and participation, strengthen future-oriented competencies, and enable collaborative learning. With a focus on Africa, Europe, Latin America, and Asia/India, we connect local actions with global perspectives to cultivate resilience, social cohesion, and regenerative practices.

The world is evolving. Let's shape it. Together.

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