

Bridging the competitiveness gap in Latin America

In 2014, The World Economic Forum and Deloitte launched a Competitiveness Lab initiative, focused on identifying the factors behind the competitiveness gap in Latin America. The Lab was conducted by a group of experts from academia and the public and private sectors.

The underlying factors of the skills and innovation gaps were identified as well as their root causes. A set of 10 recommendations for bridging these gaps was developed and presented at the Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos, 2015.



1 UNDERLYING FACTORS OF THE SKILLS GAP



Low quality and **VALUE** of education



Weak student **PERFORMANCE**



Unequal **ACCESS** to education



MISALIGNMENT of worker competence



2 UNDERLYING FACTORS OF THE INNOVATION GAP



Low R&D **INVESTMENT**



Low quality of scientific **RESEARCH** organization



SHORTAGE of scientists and engineers



Firms' low **TECHNOLOGY** absorptive capacity

ROOT CAUSES

There are common root causes behind the main skills and innovations gaps



Weak **FRAMEWORK** conditions



Insufficient **INVESTMENT**



Inefficient and **UNCOORDINATED** investment



Unfavorable **STRUCTURAL** characteristics

Recommendations

01

Maintain focus on policies that establish the fundamental of a well-functioning economy

02

Enhance policy effectiveness by assessing current policies, establishing evaluation criteria, and monitoring and managing capacity

03

Align investments to champion economic and social priorities

04

Increase private investment in skills and innovation development

05

Create a standardized catalogue of research competencies

06

Design public-private research and skills development funding schemes

07

Define and implement cross-sectional vocational education and training programmes

08

Establish a regional multi-annual research and innovation fund

09

Enable a freer flow and exchange of students and researchers in the region

10

Start small and opt in



Learn how these recommendations can be applied in Latin America by accessing the report:

Bridging the Skills and Innovation Gap to Boost Productivity in Latin America The Competitiveness Lab

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