

Entra 21

Title	Entra 21
Coverage	Latin America and the Caribbean
Organization/enterprise	International Youth Foundation (IYF)
Topic	Vocational training Job placement
Target group and outreach	Disadvantaged young people aged 16 to 29 from Latin America and the Caribbean
Purpose	The Entra 21 programme was established to improve the employability of youth in Latin America and the Caribbean and place them in jobs. The programme's objective is to combat the growing youth unemployment rates in the region by ensuring that more youth have access to the skills and knowledge necessary to find productive jobs and succeed in the workplace.
Key features	(1) Provides IT and life skills training for disadvantaged youth (2) Uses a clear strategy for job placement that goes beyond technical skills training (3) Provides grants to participating projects (funded from IADB/MIF, USAID and the private sector)
Strategy and approach	The Entra 21 programme provides disadvantaged young people with information technology skills that are competitive in the employment market and with the complementary life skills. A unique feature of Entra 21 is its requirement that all projects have a clear strategy for job placement that is based on labour market studies and that goes beyond a traditional focus on technical skills training. Entra 21 provides grants and technical assistance to non-profit organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean that engage in training and job placement projects that target youth. Projects should impart ICT and life skills, enabling trainees to work with computers, the Internet and other workplace technologies and equipment. These projects have to meet a demonstrated demand in the labour market and teach the skills necessary for trainees to find and hold a job.
Partners	In response to the workforce crisis in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region, the Inter-American Development Bank's Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) established an initial \$10-million challenge grant in 2001 to the International Youth Foundation (IYF). IYF met that challenge and raised over \$17 million in matching funds, which included more than \$7 million raised by local organizations. Other partners include USAID, Nokia, Microsoft and Merrill Lynch. Implementing partners are local NGOs, training institutes and foundations. Many of the implementers are members of the IYF Global Partner Network.
Major achievements	The first phase of the Entra 21 programme has provided high-tech job training to nearly 20,000 disadvantaged urban and rural youth in Latin America through grants ranging from \$300,000 to \$500,000 to 35 projects in 18 countries. A new phase of the programme was approved by the MIF in 2007 through an additional \$10 million in the form of a challenge grant. The employment rate for Entra 21 graduates is above 50 per cent and the majority of those working have jobs that pay the minimum wage or more. Through Entra 21's vigorous learning component, the programme has produced and disseminated 10 publications on key youth employability themes.

	<p>One factor contributing to the success of Entra 21 has been support from the corporate sector. More than \$3.5 million in cash contributions have been provided by multinational corporations. In addition, Entra 21 projects have received more than \$7.5 million in local counterpart contributions, which include funding from the private sector.</p> <p>The US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced in February 2007 that the International Youth Foundation (IYF) was selected from among 400 alliances worldwide as the recipient of the 2006 Global Development Alliance Excellence Award for its Entra 21 initiative. The award is given annually to showcase exemplary alliances that have a positive impact and bring new partners into the development community.</p>
Additional information	Video from the IDB about the Entra 21 programme (in Spanish; 3 minutes, 31 seconds; WMV format).
Address	International Youth Foundation 32 South Street, Suite 500 Baltimore MD 21202 USA Phone: +1-410-951-1500 Fax: +1-410-347-1188 Email: entra21@iyfnet.org
Internet link	http://www.iyfnet.org http://www.iyfnet.org/section.cfm/5/24/800

Source: International Youth Foundation (IYF)