

Professional qualification and low skilled youth

Analysis of policies in MERCOSUR
Member States in the COVID-19 pandemic

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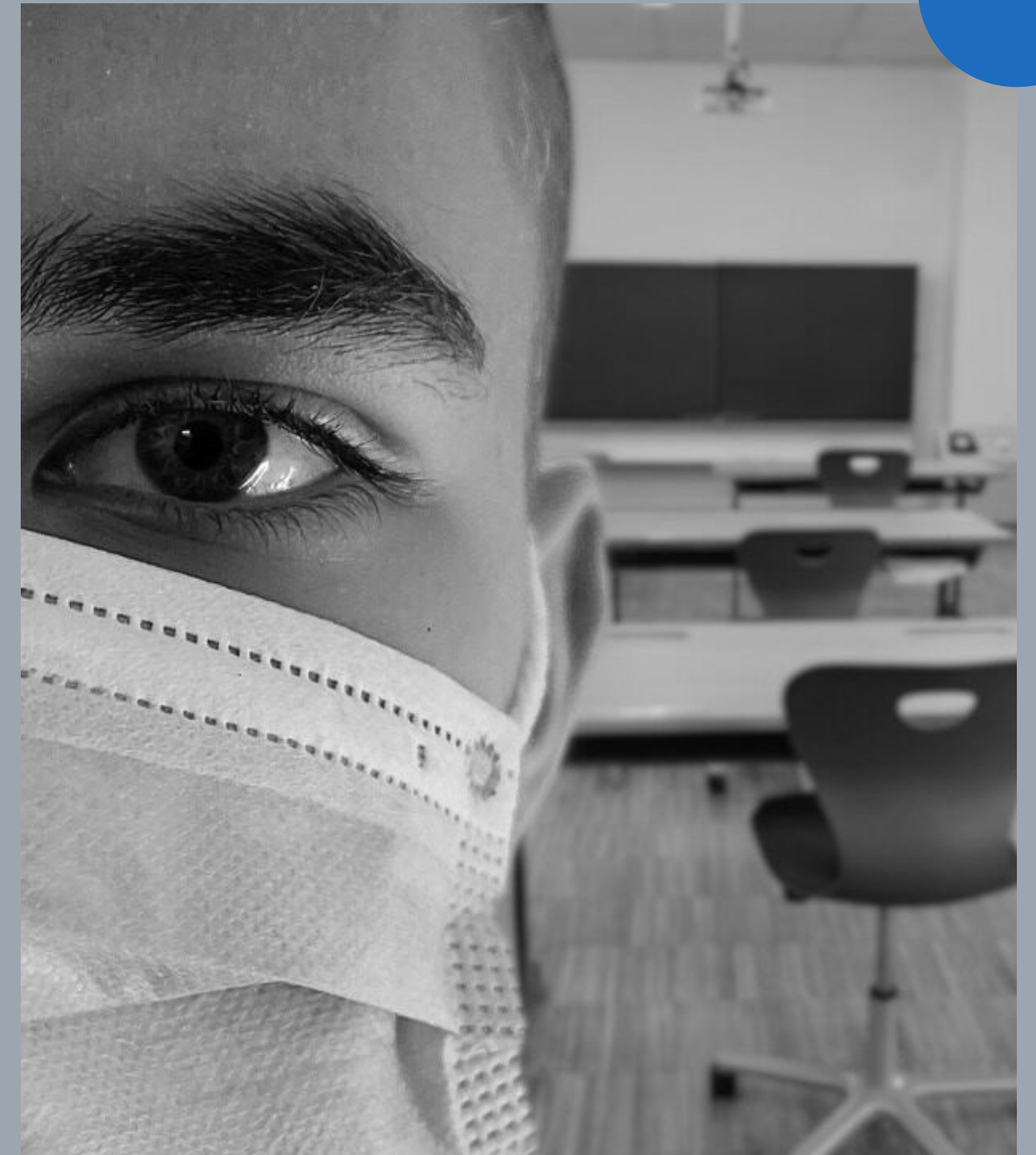
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Latin America Session





Objectives

General Objective

To investigate policies for professional qualification nationwide of the MERCOSUR Member States (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) directed to low skilled youth, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a temporal clip in the period from March 2020 to March 2021.

Specific Objectives

- (i) To provide an overview of the employment and occupation indexes related to the labour market and, specifically, to the youth, considering the period prior to the pandemic and the period of the pandemic;
- (ii) To identify whether and, if so, describe the professional qualification policies nationwide directed to low skilled youth created to face the crisis generated by the pandemic;
- (iii) To describe and to analyze the results of the professional qualification policies identified in the period from March 2020 to March 2021



Methodology

Use of deductive method (Marconi & Lakatos, 2003, pp. 90);

Bibliographical research;

Mapping of data provided by the national statistical institutes of the countries, as well as by the ILOSTAT database of the ILO.

Mapping of public policies in the national ministries or secretariats that could potentially be linked.

The results were investigated using the content analysis method (Bardin, 2011).

Context in the MERCOSUR

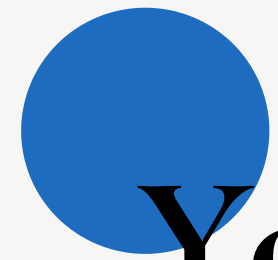
- Treaty of Asunción (1991)
- Purposes of Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)
- **Social and Labor Declaration of MERCOSUR (1998)**, which was revised, amended and expanded in 2015:
 - *Art. 2.1: States Parties agree to: a) formulate and implement active policies of decent work and full productive employment in consultation with the most representative organizations of employers and workers [...].*
 - *Art. 24: All workers have a right to professional education, counseling, training and qualification in a systematic and continuous way, throughout their working life [...].*



Youth employment in COVID-19 pandemic

- ILO monitoring that the impacts of the pandemic on the world of work would affect the amount of employment and the quality of work.
- These effects would be felt by groups considered especially vulnerable.
- ILO identified the great impact of the pandemics on **education, training and on-the-job training**.
- The possibility of the emergence of the “**lockdown generation**”.
- The monitoring of the ILO suggested **urgent action**, in order to avoid long-term damage to young people in terms of education and training and prospects for the labour market.





Youth employment in MERCOSUR

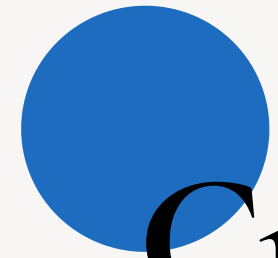
	Tasa de desempleo en general	Tasa de desempleo de los jóvenes	Tasa de desempleo en general	Tasa de desempleo de los jóvenes
País Año	2019	2019	2020	2020
Argentina	9.8	25.9	No data	No data
Brazil	11.9	27.8	13.7	31.3
Paraguay	6.6	15.3	7.6	17.1
Uruguay	8.9	27.8	10.3	33.1

Source: Own elaboration, based on ILOSTAT database.

Analysis of public policies

- Public policies aimed at low-skilled youth during the COVID-19 pandemic in MERCOSUR countries:
 - Argentina: 8 (FormAr; Jóvenes con Más y Mejor Trabajo; Cursos de capacitación; ProgresAr; EnFoCo-INET; Educ.Ar; Plan Argentina Programa; “Potenciar Trabajo”)
 - Brazil: 9 (Curso "Caminhando Juntos"; Carta Brasileira para Cidades Inteligentes; Espaço 4.0; Qualifica-Mais, Emprega-Mais; Escola do Trabalhador 4.0; Todos por Todos; Aprendizagem 4.0; Novos Caminhos; Programa Horizontes)
 - Paraguay: 2 (Taller Inserción al Empleo Juvenil; Programa Prácticas Laborales 2021)
 - Uruguay: 2 (Yo Estudio y Trabajo; Centros Educativos de Capacitación y Producción [Cecap])



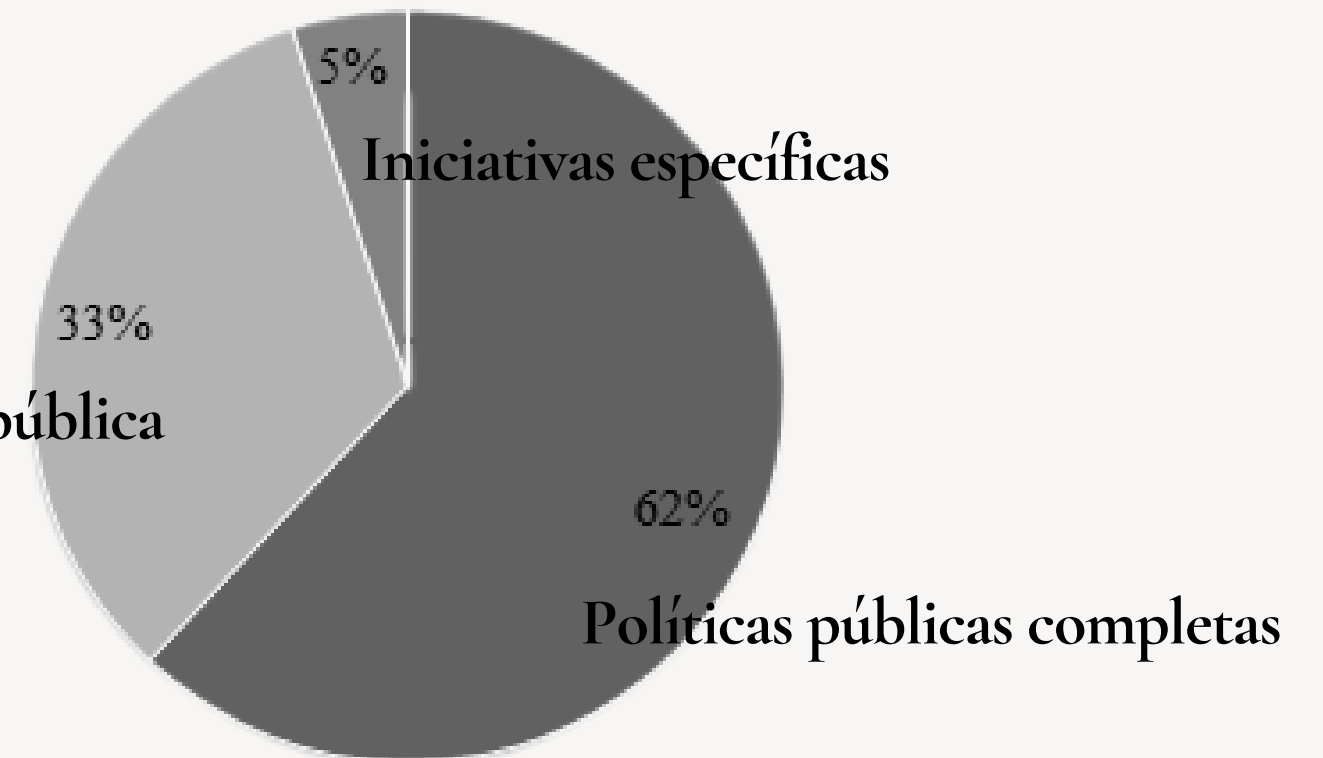


Criteria of analysis the public policies

- Year of implementation
- Responsible body
- **Dimension**
- Description and purposes
- Connection to Covid-19
- Target
- Does it contemplate low-skilled youth?
- Does it involve another actor (not a company)?
- Does it involve a company?
- Was there any change with the COVID-19 pandemic?



Parte de una política pública



Source: Own elaboration.



Analysis of public policies

- Long-standing initiative, implemented in 1981, and recent initiatives, especially in 2019, 2020 and 2021.
- Most recent initiatives were created during the pandemic, despite the **lack of information about its relationship with COVID-19**.
- In **only one case**, the initiative was created as a **direct response to COVID-19**.
- The **inapplicability** of any policies during the COVID-19 pandemic **was not identified**.
- Initiatives prior to COVID-19: some changes with the pandemic scenario (e.g. implementation in a virtual environment, etc.).

Analysis of public policies

- Open access initiatives and some initiatives delimited to youth.
- Youth: age range variation.
- Mostly, young people were differentiated with regard to **situation (social vulnerability)** and **education**. In this case, it was possible to see parallels with what is understood as low-skilled young people (Centros Educativos de Capacitación y Producción - Cecap in Uruguay; Espaço 4.0 in Brazil; Horizontes Program in Brazil and Jóvenes con Más y Mejor Trabajo in Argentina).

Analysis of public policies

- It was possible to identify in the analysis of the four countries the **absence of systematized data** on these policies, making it necessary to consult many official news and different fields on official websites to obtain more detailed information about each of the initiatives?
- It was also noted the **lack of information** - systematized or not - **on the results** of the policies analyzed in the countries, which makes it impossible to analyze the effectiveness of the initiatives and possible points of attention in each of them.

Final remarks

- A greater number of public policies for professional qualification aimed at the young population were identified in **Brazil and Argentina** than in Paraguay and Uruguay.
- However, it is important to emphasize that the existence of more policies does not necessarily mean a more active posture or greater effectiveness of actions.
- **Difficulty** in mapping the existing public policies, their details and, above all, their results. The absence or insufficiency of information makes the planning, monitoring and analysis of public policies difficult, and this is an aspect identified as a point of improvement.



Final remarks

- **Variety** of ways of externalizing data between countries was identified: each country makes these data available in a specific way and without a pattern between them.
- Relevance of **mechanisms** such as ILOSTAT, which **systematize and standardize data**, making possible a comparative analysis between different countries.



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 **Gracias!**



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