

## THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION IN HAITI AND THE CARRIBEAN AREA

F. GUYVENCHY<sup>1</sup>, Laura ŞMULEAC<sup>1</sup>, R. PAŞCALĂU<sup>1</sup>,  
<sup>1</sup> *University of Life Sciences “King Mihai I” from Timișoara, Romania*  
Corresponding author: raulpascalau@yahoo.com

**Abstract.** Education is important because it helps individuals acquire the knowledge, skills, and values they need to lead productive and fulfilling lives. It also plays a crucial role in the development of a country by providing a skilled workforce and informed citizenry. Internationalization, on the other hand, is important because it helps prepare individuals to function in a globalized world and fosters mutual understanding and cooperation between different cultures. Together, education and internationalization can help to promote economic and social development, reduce poverty, and create a more peaceful and just world. Education and internationalization are important for Haiti and other countries in the Caribbean region for several reasons. First, education is crucial for economic development. A well-educated workforce is more productive and can attract foreign investment. Education also helps to reduce poverty and inequality by providing individuals with the skills and knowledge they need to access better-paying jobs. Second, internationalization can help to improve education by exposing students and teachers to different cultures, languages, and teaching methods. This can lead to a more diverse and globally minded workforce, which can be beneficial for businesses and organizations that operate internationally. Lastly, Internationalization is also important for Haiti and other Caribbean countries because it can help to promote economic growth and social development through trade, investment, and tourism. It also contributes to greater cultural exchange and understanding, which can foster peace and stability in the region.

**Keywords:** education, internationalization, Caribbean, importance, studies, Haiti

### INTRODUCTION

In summary, Education and internationalization are key factors that can help to boost economic development and improve the lives of people in Haiti and other Caribbean countries. Implementing effective education in Haiti can be challenging due to a number of factors, including poverty, lack of resources, and a shortage of qualified teachers. However, there are several strategies that can be used to improve education in Haiti:

- Increasing funding for education: Additional funding is needed to build and maintain schools, hire and train teachers, and provide students with the necessary resources and materials.
- Improving teacher training: Teachers need to be well-trained in order to provide students with a high-quality education. This can be achieved through programs that provide ongoing professional development and support for teachers.
- Promoting parental involvement: Parents play a critical role in their children's education, so it is important to involve them in the education process and provide them with the resources and information they need to support their children's learning.
- Leveraging technology: Technology can be used to improve education by providing students with access to educational resources and materials, and by connecting them with teachers and other students around the world.

Internationalization is important for Haiti because it can help to improve education by exposing students and teachers to different cultures, languages, and teaching methods. This can lead to a more diverse and globally-minded workforce, which can be beneficial for businesses

and organizations that operate internationally. In addition, internationalization can help to promote economic growth and social development through trade, investment, and tourism. It also contributes to greater cultural exchange and understanding, which can foster peace and stability in the region. (PAȘCALĂU and all., 2020)

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

In my research I have used a deep analysis of the education system but also in comparison with other educational systems from the Caribbean, and also based on my own experience as an Erasmus+ student.

During my research, I also identified that there are several methods that can be used to improve education in the Caribbean and Haiti:

- Distance learning: Distance learning programs can provide students with access to educational resources and materials, and connect them with teachers and other students around the world.
- Community-based education: Community-based education programs can provide education in remote or under-served areas. This approach can involve training local leaders to serve as teachers and using existing community resources such as churches and libraries as classrooms.
- Vocational and technical education: Vocational and technical education programs can prepare students for jobs in specific fields, such as agriculture, construction, and tourism. This can be particularly beneficial for countries like Haiti, where these industries are important for economic development.
- Adult education: Adult education programs can provide adults with the opportunity to improve their literacy skills, which can help them to find better-paying jobs and support their children's education.
- Bilingual education: Bilingual education programs can help to preserve the languages and cultures of the Caribbean, and also provide students with the opportunity to learn a second language, which can be beneficial for business and tourism (PAȘCALĂU and all., 2020).
- Integration of technology: Technology can be a powerful tool for improving education in the Caribbean and Haiti. For example, online courses and educational apps can provide students with access to educational resources and materials, and connect them with teachers and other students around the world.
- International collaboration: collaboration with international institutions, organizations or countries can help to improve the education system in the Caribbean and Haiti. This can involve sharing best practices and resources, and providing training and support for teachers and students.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Erasmus is a European Union (EU) program that promotes international cooperation and mobility in education. It provides funding for students, teachers, and institutions to study, teach, and train abroad in Europe. While Erasmus is primarily focused on Europe, it has also been expanded to include partner countries outside of the EU. (ȘMULEAC and all., 2020).

In terms of Haiti and the Caribbean region, the role of Erasmus would be limited, as these countries are not currently included in the program (KNIGHT J. (1997). However, the Erasmus+ program, which is an EU funding program that covers education, training, youth, and sport, has an International Cooperation (IC) action which allows for cooperation between EU countries and other countries worldwide

This means that institutions, organizations, and individuals from Haiti and the Caribbean could potentially participate in Erasmus+ International Cooperation projects and benefit from the funding and opportunities provided by the program.

Erasmus+ IC projects can be used to support the development of the education system in Haiti and the Caribbean, for example by providing training for teachers, supporting the development of new curricula, and promoting the use of technology in education. It can also help in terms of student and staff mobility, by giving them the opportunity to study, teach or train abroad and gain new skills, knowledge and experiences. For example in a mobility they could learn about the most used resources of the planet, like the water, air, soil, also being possible to do research on the water condition in the Banat plain, as I have already done and it helped me a lot to understand the importance of the water in a plain area for the future professional engineers (ŞMULEAC and all., 2013). It was possible due to the importance that I had to be part of the world wide programme Erasmus+ and internationalization.

In summary, while Haiti and the Caribbean are not currently included in the Erasmus program, the Erasmus+ program's International Cooperation action allows for cooperation between EU countries and other countries worldwide, which could potentially benefit the education system in these regions. (PIKE & SELBY, 1988)..

Internationalization can be important for teenagers and students in the Caribbean and Haiti for several reasons:

- Exposure to different cultures and perspectives: Internationalization can provide teenagers and students with the opportunity to learn about different cultures, languages, and ways of life. This can help to broaden their understanding of the world and promote tolerance and acceptance of other cultures.
- Language learning: Internationalization can provide teenagers and students with the opportunity to learn a second language, which can be beneficial for business and tourism. It can also open up new educational and career opportunities.
- Career opportunities: Being exposed to different cultures and languages can also open up new career opportunities, particularly in fields such as international business, diplomacy, and tourism.
- Personal development: Internationalization can provide teenagers and students with the opportunity to gain new skills, knowledge and experiences, which can help them to become more confident and independent. This can also help them to develop a sense of global citizenship and contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous world.
- Access to resources and support: Internationalization can provide teenagers and students in the Caribbean and Haiti with access to resources and support that may not be available locally. (MARGINSON. S., 2016). This can include educational materials, technology, and funding opportunities.

Higher education is important for the Caribbean and Haiti for several reasons:

- Economic development: A well-educated workforce is crucial for economic development, as it can increase productivity and attract foreign investment. Higher education can also help to reduce poverty and inequality by providing individuals with the skills and knowledge they need to access better-paying jobs.
- Professional development: Higher education can provide individuals with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their chosen fields and advance in their careers (PAŞCALĂU and all., 2021).
- Research and innovation: Higher education institutions play an important role in research and innovation, by conducting research in various fields and developing new technologies and products.

- Social development: Higher education can contribute to social development by promoting civic engagement, cultural preservation, and environmental sustainability.
- Internationalization: Higher education institutions in the Caribbean and Haiti can benefit from internationalization by establishing partnerships with institutions around the world, which can provide students and faculty with opportunities to study and work abroad, and access to resources and funding.
- Addressing the brain drain: Higher education can help to address the brain drain, by providing young professionals with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their careers, so they can stay in their home countries and contribute to the local economy (PAȘCALĂU et al., 2021).

Good internationalization in the Caribbean area and Haiti can have a number of positive results:

- Economic growth: Internationalization can help to promote economic growth by increasing trade, investment, and tourism in the region. This can create new jobs and improve living standards for people in the Caribbean and Haiti. (KNIGHT J., 1997).
- Improved education: Internationalization can help to improve education by exposing students and teachers to different cultures, languages, and teaching methods. This can lead to a more diverse and globally-minded workforce, which can be beneficial for businesses and organizations that operate internationally.
- Cultural exchange and understanding: Internationalization can contribute to greater cultural exchange and understanding, which can foster peace and stability in the region. It can also help to preserve and promote the languages and cultures of the Caribbean.
- Increased mobility: Internationalization can provide opportunities for people in the Caribbean and Haiti to study, teach, and work abroad. This can help them to gain new skills, knowledge and experiences, and also help them to develop a sense of global citizenship.
- Access to resources and support: Internationalization can provide people in the Caribbean and Haiti with access to resources and support that may not be available locally. This can include educational materials, technology, and funding opportunities.
- Addressing the brain drain: Good internationalization can help to address the brain drain, by providing young professionals with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their careers, so they can stay in their home countries and contribute to the local economy.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

In summary, good internationalization in the Caribbean area and Haiti can lead to economic growth, improved education, cultural exchange and understanding, increased mobility, access to resources and support, and can address the brain drain, higher education being important for the Caribbean and Haiti as it can contribute to economic development, professional development, research and innovation, social development, internationalization, and addressing the brain drain.

In conclusion, Internationalization can be beneficial for teenagers and students in the Caribbean and Haiti by providing them with new opportunities for learning, personal development and career opportunities, exposure to different cultures, and access to resources and support that may not be available locally.

In conclusion, education and internationalization are key factors that can help to boost economic development and improve the lives of people in the Caribbean area and Haiti.

Implementing effective education in the Caribbean and Haiti can be challenging, but there are several strategies that can be used to improve education in the region such as increasing funding, improving teacher training, promoting parental involvement, leveraging technology, and international collaboration.

Internationalization can help to improve education by exposing students and teachers to different cultures, languages, and teaching methods. It can also help to promote economic growth and social development through trade, investment, and tourism. Furthermore, internationalization can help to preserve and promote the languages and cultures of the Caribbean, and also provide students with the opportunity to learn a second language. It can also increase mobility for students and staff, by giving them the opportunity to study, teach or train abroad and gain new skills, knowledge and experiences.

Overall, both education and internationalization are crucial for the Caribbean area and Haiti to achieve economic development and social progress. The Caribbean and Haiti can benefit from internationalization by establishing partnerships with institutions around the world, which can provide students and faculty with opportunities to study and work abroad, and access to resources and funding. It is important for the Caribbean area to continue to focus on education and internationalization as a means to improve the lives of its citizens and promote sustainable development in the region.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BENAYAS JMR, NEWTON AC, DIAZ A, BULLOCK JM. 2009. Enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services by ecological restoration: a meta-analysis.
- BRANDENBURG U., DE WIT H., JONES E., LEASK B., DROBNER A. (2020). Internationalisation in Higher Education for Society (IHES). Concept, current research and examples of good practice [DAAD studies]. German Academic Exchange Service.
- CRĂCIUN D. (2018). National policies for higher education internationalization: A global comparative perspective. In Curaj A., Deca L., Pricopie R. (Eds.), *European higher education area: The impact of past and future policies* (pp. 95–106). Springer.
- EURYDICE, EDUCATION, AUDIOVISUAL AND CULTURE EXECUTIVE AGENCY, EUROPEAN COMMISSION. (2018). *The European higher education area in 2018: Bologna process implementation report*. Publications Office of the European Union.
- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES. (2012). *Affirming academic values in internationalization of higher education: A call for action*.
- KNIGHT J. (1997). Internationalisation of higher education: A conceptual framework. In Knight J., de Wit H. (Eds.), *Internationalisation of Higher Education in Asia Pacific Countries* (pp. 5–19). European Association for International Education (EAIE).
- KNIGHT J. (2003). Updated definition of internationalization. *International Higher Education*, 33, 2–3.
- LOPEZ, B. (1998). *About this Life: Journeys on the Threshold of Memory*. New York: Knopf.
- LOTZ-SISITKA, H. (2010). *Climate Injustice: How Should Education Respond?* Dans Kagawa, F. & Selby, D. *Education and Climate Change: Living and Learning in Interesting Times*. New York: Routledge.
- MARGINSON S. (2016). *Higher education and the common good*. Melbourne University Publishing.
- PAȘCALĂU R., S. STANCIU, LAURA ȘMULEAC, A. ȘMULEAC, C. SĂLĂȘAN, ALINA ANDREEA URLICĂ, (2021), *Protecting nature through languages*, *Research Journal of Agricultural Science*, 53 (2)
- PAȘCALĂU R., S. STANCIU, LAURA ȘMULEAC, A. ȘMULEAC, C. SĂLĂȘAN, ALINA ANDREEA URLICĂ, M. BAKLI (2021), *Teaching Climate Change In Class, A Must And A Challenge*, *Research Journal of Agricultural Science*, 53 (2)

- PAȘCALĂU R., S. STANCIU, LAURA ȘMULEAC, A. ȘMULEAC, MIRELA AHMADI KHOE, M. DANCI, ANDREA FEHER, IASMINA IOSIM, C. SĂLĂȘAN, M. BAKLI, M. AMARA, (2020), The importance of English language in attracting foreign tourists in the mures valley region, namely in the wine road area, county of Arad, Western Romania, Research Journal of Agricultural Science, ISSN: 2668-926X, Vol. 52(2)
- PAȘCALĂU R., S. STANCIU, LAURA ȘMULEAC, A. ȘMULEAC, MIRELA AHMADI KHOE, ANDREA FEHER, C. SĂLĂȘAN, M. DANCI, M. BAKLI, M. AMARA, (2020), Academic vocabulary in teaching english for agriculture, Research Journal of Agricultural Science, ISSN: 2668-926X, Vol. 52(2)
- PIKE, G. & SELBY, D. (1988). Global Teacher, Global Learner. Londres: Hodder & Stoughton. Smuleac Laura, Silvica Oncia, Anisoara Ienciu, R Bertici, A Șmuleac, C Pițiga (2013) A study on the possibilities of using groundwater in rural communities in south-western Banat Plain, Research Journal of Agricultural Science, Vol 45, No 2
- ȘMULEAC LAURA, CIPRIAN RUJESCU, ADRIAN ȘMULEAC, FLORIN ÎMBREA, ISIDORA RADULOV, DAN MANEA, ANIȘOARA IENCIU, TABITA ADAMOV, RAUL PAȘCALĂU (2020), Impact of Climate Change in the Banat Plain, Western Romania, on the Accessibility of Water for Crop Production in Agriculture, Agriculture, Vol 10.