

British Council Cuba

#InglesParaElDesarrollo

Presentation by: Minerva Rodríguez

Country Director Cuba

Nov 2021

In collaboration with :
MINED
MES
Professional Organizations
(APC-ELI, ALC-GELI)

ABOUT US



We are a non-governmental organisation established in 1934 with a presence in over 100 countries.

Each year we connect thousands of students, educators, academics, artists, leaders and creators from Cuba with opportunities for professional development, and we build up bonds between them and the UK.

Our office in Cuba was opened in 1998. Since then we work in close collaboration with the Ministries of Culture, Education and Higher Education and with the Cuban Radio and Television Institute; with the support of the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Havana, whose grounds accommodate our office.

We also offer the possibility of taking the IELTS exams, which provide access to Higher Education opportunities all over the world.

Our mission is to create understanding and bring people together by sharing culture and the arts, education and the English language through projects aimed at supporting the development of professionals and communities.

OUR VALUES



Our focus is on the building of professional development skills and on the creation of opportunities for everyone, especially for the new generations. Our goal is to create a safe environment in which no children or adult suffers harm or exploitation.

We are aware that our activities have an impact on the environment, and we are committed to managing and minimising that impact, promoting sustainability in the design, development and execution of our programmes.

We give priority to issues of inclusion in training activities linked to the SDG from the Agenda 2030. We promote quality education (ODS no.4) and we assist in promoting an international collaboration network between teachers from Cuba and the UK (ODS No.17). We also focus our work on looking at ways to eliminate inequalities (ODS No.10) and to support any positive action to protect the climate (ODS No. 13).

EQUALITY POLICY STATEMENT

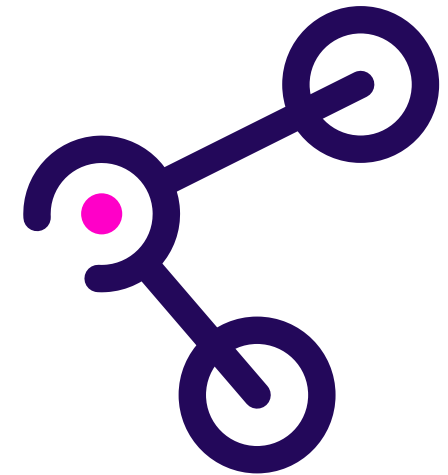
Working effectively with diversity is an essential part of our mission. We are committed to ensuring that there is no unjustified discrimination in the recruitment, retention, treatment, training and development of staff, consultants, partners and trainees based on:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender including transgender
- HIV/AIDS status
- Marital status including civil partnerships
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Political opinion

- Race/ethnicity
- Religion and belief
- Sexual orientation
- Socio-economic background
- Work pattern
- Having or not having dependants
- Any other irrelevant ground

WE ARE COMMITTED TO...

- ❑ Understanding, valuing, and working with diversity to enable fair and full participation in people's work and activities
- ❑ Ensuring that there is no unjustified discrimination in recruitment, selection, performance management or other processes
- ❑ Promoting equality; this includes conducting equality screening and impact assessments of policies and functions
- ❑ Treating individuals with whom we works with fairness, dignity and respect
- ❑ Playing our part in removing barriers and redressing imbalances caused by inequality and unjustified discrimination.



OUR PROJECT TEAM BASED IN CUBA



Minerva Rodriguez
Country Director



Yaillet Landrove
Arts & English Manager



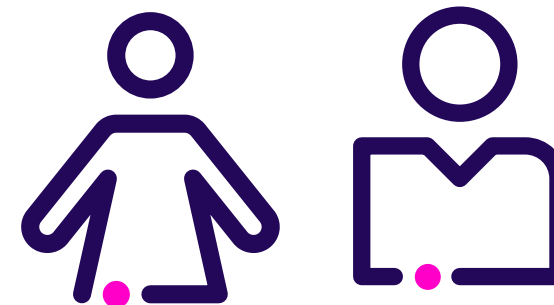
Omar Carralero
Projects & Resources
Officer



Luis Marin
Projects Coordinator



Olga Diaz
Communications Officer



PREVIOUS ACTIONS (2016-2021)

- **MoUs signed with MES and MINED**
- **Collaboration Agreements signed with a number of Cuban Universities to organise and deliver trainings to teachers, professors and students with pedagogical orientation**
- **The main themes for those trainings have been: TKT (Teacher knowledge Test), Continuous Professional Development (CPD Professional Awards), Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR), Current tendencies on teaching English (Mentors in Action), inclusion into the classrooms, intercultural approach to English Lessons and others**

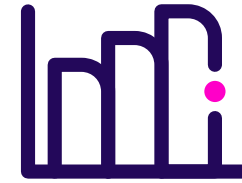


PREVIOUS ACTIONS (2016-2021)

- **Opportunities to participate in International events such as IATEFL, BBELT, New Directions, and others**
- **Attendance to the Education World Forum- MES- Dr. José Ramón Saborido Loidi (2019 edition) and MINED-Dra C . Ena Elsa Velázquez Cobiella (2020 edition)**
- **Local events participation and exchanges- Pedagogía 2021 (With the presentation by British Council Interim Chief Executive Kate Ewart-Biggs), Universidad 2020, ELT Conference, Road Shows, APC-ELI and ALC-GELI Conferences, UCI events.**



IMPACT ACHIEVED UP TO 2020



+250 cultural and educational organisations and institutions in Cuba and the UK are part of our wide working network.

Over 57 spaces for exchange and collaboration have been generated as part of our work, connecting Cuba with artists, experts and events in the UK.

Universities from MES have academic trainers ready to create new trainings and to prepare cascading from courses taken with us

+76000 people have learned more about our programmes on virtual platforms during the 1st year of COVID-19 pandemic.

About 6500 English language teachers and professors have been participating in our trainings

A new generation of English teachers is getting trained to be the trainers on New tendencies of teaching the language (Mentors in Action)

COVID-19 – HOW TO KEEP OUR OPERATIONS RUNNING?

Connectivity risks identified:

Platforms that are not allowed to operate in Cuba (Ex: Zoom google classroom)

Zones with no connectivity or bad quality signal (ADSL, 3G, 4G)

Intermittent connectivity

Data costs

Telephone devices specifications (some unable to be used for internet)

Training on technology usage for digital events

Training on digital delivery from trainers, British Council and partners

OUR WORK DURING PANDEMIC TIMES

Together with our local counterparts we have managed to support around **15 direct training actions**, international exchanges and events linked to our EES project, connecting with a significant audience:



782 English language teachers and education leaders through virtual platforms



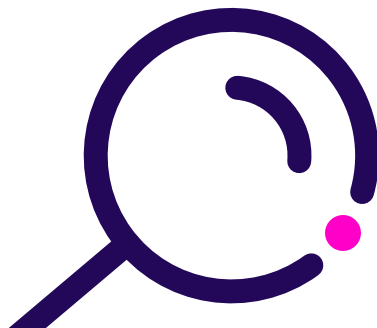
3,528 people through our virtual recorded events (mainly on social media platforms)



In addition, we were able to benefit around 780 people through cascading actions.

CURRENT SITUATION

- Online trainings are possible to deliver in Cuba
- Some Cuban Universities have expertise on working with Moodle to deliver trainings (free of charge for the Cuban beneficiaries)
- There have been identified the main themes to deliver trainings aligned to the ministerial strategies to improve English teaching and learning in Cuba
- There are a number of University professors able to lead on trainings to benefit teachers from MINED
- To get results at medium term it will be important to get a sense of Unity and to work together to be able to increase the proficiency level on students.
- MINED should hand over students at least at A2 level (according to local statistics, 70% of the students are below A2 at the beginning of the University period)



To reinforce our work based on priorities, it was proposed to develop a joint project for the next 3 years:

#InglesParaElDesarrollo

Key Message:



***The project is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda.**

PRIORITIES FOR THE 1ST YEAR 2021-FEB 2022

- ❑ Trainings for Professional Development on Climate Change for ELT, CEFR and New tendencies on English teaching**
- ❑ Local cascading of trainings and workshops**
- ❑ Monitoring and Evaluation (local teachers sharing experiences)**
- ❑ Attendance to International events such as the Education World Forum and BBELT (The Best of British English Language Teaching)**

Expected impact:

**Reaching 3600
local teachers
and professors
with our joint
trainings**

PRIORITIES FOR THE 2ND YEAR

- ❑ Expanding trainings to rural areas and those with connectivity issues
- ❑ To include all universities with Moodle possibilities on the digital deliveries for priority English language trainings
- ❑ Adding trainings on Assessment and Evaluation and Communicative skills based on the CEFR levels A1-A2-B1
- ❑ To create the provincial scheme for the new generations of teachers
- ❑ #InglesParaEIDesarrollo- GRUPO DE AVANZADA along MINED to be able to further train English teachers along the island.

Expected impact:

**4000 English
language
teachers**

**Targets are not easy to
achieve.**

**We would like to invite you
all to work together.**



Many thanks!

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<https://www.facebook.com/BritishCouncilCuba>