



THEMATIC DOCUMENT: CAIE COLOMBIA-2019

HUBS OF KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION: SYNERGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Abbreviated description

The twentieth century marked the beginning of an unprecedented process of social reorganization and resettlement around urban centers. As we look forward, CAIE Colombia-2019 calls upon representatives from the public, private and academic sectors, as well as civil society, to participate in a shared reflection about the strategic links and necessary partnerships to advance the development of knowledge and innovation hubs in the Americas.

Extended description

The twentieth century marked the beginning of an unprecedented process of social reorganization and resettlement around urban centers. According to the United Nations (www.unfpa.org) nearly 800 million people, or what is equivalent to 80% of the population of our hemisphere, is now concentrated in one of its cities. Being knowledgeable of the potential of the territory and the characteristics that make it unique in a highly competitive environment is essential to solving global challenges. As we tackle these matters higher education institutions (HEIs) have a key role to play. Their unique position as sources and transmitters of knowledge that is pertinent to their communities call upon them to advance, in collaboration with other stakeholders, urban development programs that incorporate strategic components such as internationalization. A purposeful international agenda has become a fundamental component of every HEI and contemporary city's strategy and action plan. The international links strengthen the shared ecosystem, foster development and improve competitiveness reporting benefits to their communities.

We can identify a significant number of positive experiences across the continent where cities, regions or even nations have put together internationalization strategies in which HEIs play a pivotal role through their contributions in research, knowledge transfer and innovation in various disciplines. At the same time, we find other examples in which the initiatives that are being set up bring together organizations and institutions from different sectors and educational levels with the purpose of implementing an integral development plan with global outreach.



As we look forward, CAIE Colombia-2019 calls upon representatives from the public, private and academic sectors, as well as civil society, to participate in a shared reflection about the human, economic and social processes and the different stakeholders that converge on a given territory. Drawing on local, regional and international experiences, CAIE will set the stage for the development of strategic links and partnerships in order to advance the development of knowledge and innovation hubs in the Americas.

Sub-themes of the CAIE Colombia-2019

After preliminary consultation and a review of the literature on the subject, the following sub-themes for the submission of papers and/or case studies have been identified:

1. Research and Knowledge Transfer: Innovation for Development

True to its nature, the higher-education sector is constantly engaged in a process of continued innovation as it pertains to the design, relevance, financing and impact of scientific research and the production of knowledge.

The constant interactions between this sector and its ecosystem, mainly made up of government entities, industry and civil society, bring real and tangible benefits to our communities. For their significant contribution to human development, the academic sector has a fundamental role to play in the design, organization, procurement and sustainability of intersectoral alliances to help establish hubs of knowledge and innovation that incorporate the territory and the capacities brought into play by the various actors.

From this perspective, one of the most important challenges facing the HEIs lies in their ability to align their skills and experiences, both in basic and applied research, in a continuum of scientific and academic endeavors that may lead to partnerships with the economic sector to produce knowledge in the betterment of our societies.

This conference sub-theme welcomes proposal that highlight the contribution and impact that basic and applied research have on the production and transfer of knowledge for the improvement of social or industrial processes. Proposals that feature intersectoral collaboration between industry and the academic sector, particularly cases that have an impact on research, their immediate surroundings and present mechanisms for the development of their environments and various actors are also encouraged.



2. Redesigning Higher Education: Learning for Innovation

Higher education is commonly identified as the axis from which to plan and develop hubs of knowledge and innovation. In the fulfillment of their mandate, higher education institutions adapt their educational processes and academic structures to train future professionals to have a positive influence in the development of their own environments. Education for innovation, collaborative work, on-the-job training, practical learning or other innovative approaches to higher education are just a few examples of educational strategies supported on a close collaboration between academia and their environment and which in turn contribute to the betterment of the broader ecosystem.

The redesign of our educational processes to integrate our environment and thus motivate innovation is without a doubt a priority of our time.

This second sub-theme welcomes proposals presenting practical examples of curricular revision or alternative approaches to teaching and learning that have been purposely implemented to nurture a culture of innovation that goes beyond the classroom and that has been developed in close collaboration with outside partners.

3. International Partnerships: Platform for Sustainability

The success of different knowledge and innovation hubs is usually explained by the strength of the collaborative and synergistic relations that develop among its partners. It is thus fundamental to design spaces and relation-building strategies that favor exchanges among the associated sectors – public, private, academic and civil society – and thus encourage the development of a conducive environment supported on their capacities.

But this process cannot happen in isolation. The sustainability of any ecosystem rests on the ability to identify kindred communities with which to build collaborative relationships and strategic alliances, regional and international, to expand capacities, incorporate new knowledge, share experiences, accelerate the development of human capital and generate mutual benefits. In this regard, higher education institutions position themselves as the ideal partners to project the hub at the international level by contributing their experiences, connections and infrastructure.



This third sub-theme seeks proposals that present examples of international and transnational collaboration that highlight the participation of the higher education sector in the design and implementation of consortia and intersectoral alliances to strengthen and project hubs of knowledge and innovation and the various players that interact around them.

4. Social Synergies: Sustainability, Equity and Inclusion

Contemporary societies face increasingly daunting challenges that compromise our vision of the future. Different solutions are being put forth and are currently within our reach, but success is largely dependent on the active participation of higher education institutions, local, regional and national governments, industry and the business sector along with civil society. Their involvement in the design of hubs of knowledge and innovation may ensure that these large-scale development projects favor the expansion of existing capacities within a framework that promotes inclusion, equitable participation and long-term sustainability.

This fourth sub-theme welcomes proposals that present case studies or other examples of institutional initiatives of participatory collaboration involving actors from various sectors and their contribution to the design, implementation or monitoring of local, regional or international development strategies.