



EDITORIAL

Building the future: The importance of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Ecosystems

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In this time of rapid changes and global challenges, it is essential to recognize the crucial role that science, technology and innovation ecosystems play in the development of a region or sector. An ecosystem is more than a network of interactions; it is the harmonious symphony between diverse actors in a dynamic and collaborative environment that integrates academic institutions, companies, government entities, entrepreneurs, and society, with the objective of promoting research, technological development, and innovation. This system facilitates the interaction and flow of information, knowledge, human talent, and financial resources, creating a fabric that drives competitiveness, sustainability, and well-being in a territory.

The consolidation of these ecosystems implies defining some stakes that unite actors around a common purpose, establishing clear priorities and creating the conditions for long-term development, guided by metrics that support participation and constant evaluation.

Traditionally oriented towards economic development, ecosystems have evolved towards broader and more complex goals, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals for the 2030. The inclusion of society as a key player in the transition to the "quadruple helix" reflects the understanding that genuine progress covers environmental and social development.

Ecosystem actors, whether academic, business, governmental or committed citizens, must recognize and enhance their skills and resources. Training and constant capacity building are the cornerstones for building more competitive and sustainable territories.

Effective implementation of programs and projects, backed by diverse financial and technical resources, is essential. Financing is a challenge that requires an innovative strategy combining international funds, public and private resources, tax formulas and the development of venture capital vehicles.

Culture and governance are the cornerstone of ecosystems. Building trust through codes of conduct, value dialogues and open communication processes creates a collaborative culture. Trust is the glue that ensures the sustainability and continuity of ecosystems over time.

In this journey to a brighter future, each of us can and must contribute. Let us recognize our role in this ecosystem, strengthen our capabilities, seek innovative forms of financing and promote a culture of collaboration. Together, we will build a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous world based on STI.

ABOUT US

ACHIEVEMENTS 2023



NOTICIAS EN LA RED

Colombia Boosts Bioeconomy with Strategic Alliance for Sustainability



Colombia takes a crucial step towards sustainable development by establishing a strategic alliance between the Science and Technology Center of Antioquia and the Alexander Von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute.

The primary objective of this collaboration is the formulation of a Strategic Plan for Institutional Transformation, with a view to 2030, that will enhance applied research, technological development, and innovation capabilities in the field of the bioeconomy.

The work plan includes a global comparative analysis, detailed diagnoses of the Humboldt Institute's current capabilities, and the creation of a roadmap for the implementation of the proposed vision. Given Colombia's rich biodiversity, the initiative seeks to promote the bioeconomy as a key to economic, social, and environmental development, proposing science, technology, and innovation as essential drivers to address challenges such as climate change and the sustainable management of the country's natural capital.

The bioeconomy emerges as a transcendental strategy for sustainability, contributing to economic growth and improving the quality of life in Colombia. The alliance with the Humboldt Institute reflects the country's commitment to the integral management of its biodiversity, highlighting the importance of turning knowledge and innovation into fundamental tools for the design of products and processes that make sustainable use of natural resources. This initiative will not only diversify the economic matrix, but will also contribute to rural development, social inclusion and strengthen the effective response to environmental challenges, placing Colombia at the forefront of the bioeconomy at the international level.

Balance of the WAITRO meeting in Turkey



Last November 20 and 21, the WAITRO meeting was held at Tubitak's facilities in Gebze, Turkey. During this event, joint workspaces were facilitated between the WAITRO board, RRs and RFPs, marking a milestone in international collaboration.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the strategic presentation on sustainability of the network, where it was proposed to transform the network into a for-profit entity, allowing the collection of funds through memberships to ensure its operation and the achievement of its objectives.

In addition, a visit was made to the United Nations technology bank, where the 2022-2031 program was socialized, which seeks to invest in projects in developing countries, mainly in Africa and Asia.

Individual meetings were also held to discuss various fundamental issues. Among them, the proposal that WAITRO assume a more executive role from the Secretariat, facilitating opportunities for members and establishing a team of lookouts to connect resources and funds. Also reported on the successful Benchmark exercise, now available for members to conduct a self-diagnosis and work on strengthening their capacities.

The progress of the taskforce was discussed, where all members have already signed the documentation, so that very soon we will be invited to participate in consortiums within the Horizon Europe programs.

Finally, details of Summit 2024 were announced, which will maintain the successful dynamics of the previous event. The central theme of the event will be "Local Solutions: Global Impacts", on which in-depth work will begin in January.

In conclusion, the meeting in Turkey marked a significant step towards the strengthening and expansion of WAITRO.

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