



L+iD

Laboratorio Iberoamericano de
Investigación en Cultura & Desarrollo



Universitat de Girona

Laboratory for Research and Innovation in Development and Culture (L + ID)

Our mission

Culture is a key element in development processes because it influences the different possibilities of communities and societies as a path of economic growth, social cohesion, creativity and innovation, governance and environmental balance.

In recent years we have observed the growing interest of diverse international bodies in promoting the cultural dimension in development actions and in highlighting the growing cultural sector in an increasingly globalised society.

Since its creation in 1945, Unesco fosters the necessary multilateral perspective of culture and its contributions to development, carrying this dimension over to other international bodies, which have added culture to their agendas as a field of action. Culture is defined not as a mere accessory dimension of development, but as the selfsame fabric of society and as an internal power for its progress.

Within this frame, many countries are working to add the cultural dimension more intensely and proactively to their development plans, seeking more practical and efficient formulas for carrying out local and national policies that enhance the contribution of culture to development and that provide systems for monitoring this contribution and measuring its impact.

In international development cooperation, the donor countries define development policies in the field of culture and the partner countries, which receive the aid, appreciate the need to influence the cultural sector appropriately.

Within this general context, aware of the importance of the relations between development and culture, the University of Girona-UdG (Spain) and the Bolívar Technological University-UTB of Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) coincided in their approaches and signed an Institutional Collaboration and Cooperation Agreement aimed to channel exchange and growth processes. This agreement operates through the Master's Programme in Development and Culture and through the Development and Culture Network, which are coordinated from the UTB and the Unesco Chair on Cultural Policies and Cooperation of the UdG.

As a result of this cooperation, the two institutions applied to the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) for a grant for the performance of this project, within the PCI – AECID Interuniversity Cooperation and Scientific Research Programme.

This union of academic institutions seeks to consolidate specific processes and achievements of knowledge exchange which translate into the design and performance of projects, the fostering of the exchange of teachers, researchers and students, the organisation of activities in the scientific and cultural spheres, the training of cultural managers capable of influencing contemporary processes of development and culture, and the expansion of the study of cultural policies as paths of development.

Within this frame, the *Ibero-American Laboratory for Research and Innovation in Development and Culture (L + ID)* is starting its activities and consolidating itself as a space where networking dynamics, research and innovation processes, scientific cooperation and exchange converge.

Profile and goals

The *Ibero-American Laboratory for Research and Innovation in Development and Culture (L + ID)* is a space for the study and exploration of strategies and projects aimed to strengthen the role of culture in development actions and to contribute to the advance of local, national, international and multilateral projects and strategies conceived in terms of development and culture.

Aware of the decades of work of a large number of actors in different countries, the mission of the Laboratory is to foster a space where specialised researchers can cooperate or where they can add this dimension to their work, with the aim to foster exchanges between their lines of research and to procure a greater visibility for their studies.

Indeed, the Laboratory seeks to generate a process of exchanges, mutual knowledge and collaboration systems so as to create a community capable of contributing knowledge that will help to face the challenges entailed by the greater articulation between culture and development in today's world and in the agendas of the international bodies.

It is formed by researchers, university teachers, experienced professionals and experts who contribute their knowledge and career baggage to the generation of research projects, innovation, assessment and consultancy.

Within its organisation it promotes meeting and exchange between experts of long experience and young researchers in the process of training.

It is a space of North-South, public-private cooperation, which has two headquarters –the University of Girona in Spain, and the Bolívar Technological University in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia– and it is attached to the Institute of Studies for Development (IDE).

The Laboratory concerns itself with theoretical-practical aspects of development and with appropriate policies for overcoming poverty; in this way, Cartagena de Indias, as the main headquarters, becomes a space of outstanding importance for its research endeavour.

Its structure assures the international mobility of its members and efficiency in the management and administration of resources for the performance of initiatives.

The Laboratory's activity:

- To sound out the status of research and innovation in development and culture in Latin America and in the international sphere.
- To investigate the relations between development and culture.
- To promote processes of innovation and knowledge transfer.
- To conceive, develop, nurture and carry out research and innovation projects that will allow the generation of cultural undertakings that are capable of contributing to the start-up of development processes. Such processes include:
 - Protocols for cultural management conceived in terms of culture and development.
 - Community undertakings based on people's own cultures in order to overcome situations of poverty and favour social inclusion.
 - Strategies for social integration through culture.
 - Cultural offering for tourism development.
- Proposals for adding cultural aspects to public and private development policies.
- To contribute to the exchange of experts, the creation of networks and the strengthening of academic programmes.
- To offer its services to multilateral organisms for the performance of applied research studies. To advise public and private organisations on the design of policies and projects.
- To assess the impact of policies, projects and processes of cultural cooperation for development.
- To examine good practices in the field of the relationship between culture and development, and to analyse their contributions.

Components and resources

The Laboratory is formed by an international network of experts which has a portal (www.desarrolloycultura.net) for the exchange of information and discussion, which are actions that assure the quality of its intellectual output.

It has a large digital archive forming an extensive reserve of knowledge that comprises bibliographic output, experiences, organisations and experts, enriching the Laboratory's activities in this way.

The Laboratory works side by side with communities and social groups, sharing with them a springboard for the promotion of projects and initiatives.

Similar in some ways to an artist's studio, the Laboratory forms an environment for the observation of reality and for exploration, creation and innovation.

In short, it is a welcoming space for researchers and an ideal venue for meetings, seminars and training courses.





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Patrocinió:

