

EDITORIAL

FINDING A NEW MEASUREMENT MODEL WHICH REFLECTS THE RESEARCH CAPACITIES OF COLOMBIANS

The higher education system in Colombia, one of the main economies in Latin America and the Caribbean, has shown important changes related to the permanent search of quality improvement and the promotion of training of researchers in the last years. The latter has benefited the development of research, turning it into a fundamental activity in the universities.

This new academic scenario has been possible thanks to the creation of the National System of Science and Technology, as well as to the passing of the Law 30, 1992, which reformed the higher education. Both events made the financing of projects and training of researchers possible, it also prompted mobility and therefore, cultural exchange, which enriches the research teams in Colombia.

The “support, strengthening and consolidation of the research teams in Colombia” was established with the Law 29, 1991. This law defines a research team as a “Core or basic unity of the National System of Science, Technology and Innovation (NSSTI) for the creation of knowledge due to innovation.” According to these standards, the national call for the acknowledgement and measurement of research teams, technological development and innovation of the (NSSTI), closed in December 2013 with a yet more demanding model which met the international standards.

Its objective, among others, is the assessment of résumés of researchers through the information provided in the CvLAC (Curriculum Vitae America Latina and the Caribbean) according to the new criteria established by Col-ciencias (Departamento Administrativo de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación de Colombia.) Its goal is to get updated information about the capacity of the researchers in Colombia (Scientific and academic production) that reflects a blueprint of the reality in terms of research.

In like manner, Colciencias has designed a new measurement project for the journals specialized in Science, Technology, and Innovation, which will establish higher levels of visibility and inclusion in indexation and abstract. With this model the Open Access culture (Immediate access without subscription or payment to the published articles) and the migration to virtual channels will have a starring role as means of diffusion, considering their capacity to make knowledge more accessible to society.

In this sense, the journals index-linked by the National System of Indexation of Scientific Publishing and Colombian Technologies (Publindex) will be adjusted to international standards in the measurement of its quality. This is fundamentally guaranteed by demanding they be mediated, that is, that peer reviewers in the area of knowledge assess the articles of every issue.

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On the other hand, when they are listed in database of worldwide consult, it is increased in the impact factor. Which corresponds to the frequency in which an article has been cited during a year.

Therefore, our country count on a model adjusted to international standards, which will allow us to contemplate our real situation regarding research and make the necessary adjustments in investment policies and stimuli that allow us to guarantee consolidation in science, technology and innovation in the development of the scientific research in Colombia.

ZILATH ROMERO GONZÁLEZ
Editor