

University of Aveiro (PT), 05-07 June 2019

## *University Lifelong Learning to Live a Better Life – Continuing Education for Sustainable Quality of Life in Europe*

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### ***Partnerships between Universities, Companies, Civil Society and Governments for Sustainable Development – Some Latin-American Experiences***

The landscape of continuing education in Latin America is highly complex. Cultural and regional differences between the countries of the southern hemisphere combine with different levels of economic and human development, a wide variety of systems of education, and a diversity of institutions of higher education to provide enormous challenges, but also great opportunities for international cooperation.

RECLA has been promoting such international cooperation in Latin American and Europe for more than 20 years, focusing on common challenges in the promotion of the sustainable development of our societies. Continuing education in the region needs to simultaneously focus on three goals: promote economic growth, install a consciousness for the protection of the environment, and make sure that all members of society are capable of participating in the creation and distribution of social value. Achieving these goals is beyond the capability of any single institution. This is why RECLA has been promoting models of partnerships between universities and the private sector, civil society and governments. We give visibility to successful examples and encourage the transfer of good practices among our members.

The presentation will highlight three such examples:

- 1) In Argentina, RECLA members have partnered with local enterprises to align their offer with the actual needs of the companies. Regional and national governments as well as international organizations provide recognition for the certificates. The transfer of skills and knowledge contributes to the development of the human resources necessary for a sustainable economic development, and helps participants receive a more equitable share of the resulting economic growth.
- 2) Working together with the Universitat de Barcelona, RECLA has created a certificate program "Policy and Management in Higher Education Institutions" in Peru, Argentina, Uruguay and Mexico. This program has helped professionalize Latin-American universities and strengthen their capacity to cater to the educational needs of their societies. It was made possible through the alliances between the universities and a private company.
- 3) In Colombia, RECLA members have partnered with government and civil society organizations to work with communities that have suffered violence and with the public officials who are facing new challenges dealing with post conflict situations. Together, they are working towards the creation of a culture of peace.



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With the presentation, we want to highlight:

- how continuing education units in Latin America have approached and realized partnerships with the private sector, civil society and governments
- what challenges and opportunities continuing education faces in Latin America
- what tools and materials Latin American universities have developed to share and replicate their programs
- how RECLA members approach assessing the experience of their students and the impact of their programs

Overall, participants will get to know some examples that show how continuing education can contribute to the promotion of sustainable development. Together with participants, we will explore how the challenges and opportunities in Latin America compare to those in Europe as well as how EUCEN universities can participate in these programs or apply some of the presented ideas in their own practices.