

RESEARCH THEME

Title of the doctoral research University campuses as incubators for social innovation

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Abstract

Today, universities are increasingly becoming a fundamental element to build a social interaction with the surroundings based on cooperation and inclusiveness. Campuses, the core places for the application of an educational path, are physical elements consisting of spaces, functions, and people located in an urban context that is far more structured and varied. Designing a university campus means to generate an innovative and flexible model able not only to satisfy the requirements necessary for an effective functioning of learning and teaching but also to interact and create a continuous relational exchange with the surroundings. This proposal aims to investigate the current and future university spaces from a physical and conceptual point of view and to design inclusive and sustainable solutions in order to stimulate the creation of a dynamic and vibrant organism that can also be used by external actors mainly related to the social canvass. Campuses as incubators of social practices to experiment and prototype through actions of co-design and social inclusion, which contribute to the creation of an integrated and porous environment ready to overcome ideological barriers and to favor continuous exchange with the neighboring urban and social realities. The research must impose an elastic and innovative university model, promoter of a package composed of spaces and actions that allow resilience and facilitate the interaction, integration and social cohesion of the different communities involved.

Keywords Social innovation, Learning spaces, Local communities