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Editorial

This issue of *MLS Project Design and Management* reinforces the multidisciplinary scientific participation of our collaborators in the design, development and implementation of tools and instruments applicable to business, educational and environmental development. Innovation in scientific-technological development is a fundamental feature reflected in the main objectives of the journal as part of its lines of research and dissemination. This edition presents 10 articles selected for the technological development and methodological design implemented by the authors for publication. The first investigations correspond to the discipline of business management, implementing methodologies that solve challenges ranging from the integration of criteria for adequate business sustainability to labor motivation as a crucial element for business growth. The second section corresponds to the technical development, exposing methodologies of free use that are reflected in the cost-benefit improvement of the companies. In addition, it presents a methodology that improves operational performance with high efficiency in the manufacturing of automotive parts through the implementation of production systems in the value chain. Finally, the teaching section, based on a hermeneutic literature review, analyzes knowledge management in higher education institutions, allowing the implementation of solutions to address knowledge gaps through projects strategically directed to higher education.

The first article presents the process for the implementation of a model that determines social vulnerability and flood risk in a hydrological unit in order to promote the exchange of environmental responsibility in the face of socioeconomic development in Central America that allows resilience to the effects of climate change. The research conducted for Knowledge Management Systems (KMS) presented in the second article of this edition is implemented in higher education, demonstrating that the prescribed knowledge management models and general methodologies for implementing KMS projects not only optimize the results of higher education, but also allow the design and development of new solutions to challenges that arise at this educational level.

The third article demonstrates how the construction of infrastructure is one of the challenges of Cameroon's development policy, applying a methodology based on a SWOT analysis and reflecting the maturity of the management of public investment projects, reflects the need to implement measures and recommendations to improve and update project management in this country, in order to develop a better leadership in economic exchange with other countries.

The fourth article, based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), demonstrates with a quantitative, transversal and descriptive methodology that the social dimension criteria are of greater importance than the economic and environmental dimensions, reflecting the main barriers identified for the integration of sustainability criteria in Public Investment Projects in Peru.

The objective of the fifth article was to measure and justify the use of free application software by individuals and companies in Brazil. The main results obtained were: the existence of positive correlations in the use of free applications among legal entities and individuals, highlighting cost-benefit and cost as motivating elements for the use of these applications by the target public.

In relation to technological innovation and level of automation in small businesses in Panama, the sixth article states that the weaknesses in relation to knowledge of digital literacy and digital skills are focused on packaged solutions in the cloud, which provide all the necessary elements to respond to the particular problems of each company, accompanied by a training plan to get the most out of it, and place the small business in a place of greater competitiveness.

The seventh article analyzes the roles of actors within Development Projects and Programs (DPP) highlighting the participatory management of the DPP system by the Technical and Financial Development Partner, the Regulator, the Technical Team Leader and, to some extent, the Steering Committee, demonstrating the need for transparency, power organization and dynamization in Cameroon. The eighth article is a qualitative case study that explores recruitment and selection practices in small businesses (SMEs) in Puerto Rico. The results show that the participating companies lack a formal recruitment and selection strategy and policy, suggesting a modification in their traditional processes, using technological elements.

The ninth research determined the factors that influence the performance improvement of auto parts manufacturers in Nuevo Leon, using a literature review and the implementation of a survey approved and validated by experts in the field, which was applied to a pilot sample to review reliability, resulting in the acceptance of organizational practices variables, as well as process innovation as an improvement in organizational performance.

Finally, the last article starts from the dynamism of the companies before the improvement of their personnel, through motivation, by means of a bibliographic and field research through the observation and application of surveys to the agents of the different directorates, departments and sectors of the Provincial Command of Mozambique showing the existence of intrinsic and extrinsic motivations in the agents, driven by the diffusion of their rights and duties, the existence and diffusion of the promotion and progression plan, concluding that it is necessary to verify the influence of the material resources and physical means for the optimization of the companies and the growth of their personnel.

Before concluding this editorial, it is important for all of us who collaborate in this new project to thank the team of collaborators, IT and technical, as well as the Ibero-American University Foundation (FUNIBER) and the Universities that have provided all the material support so that this issue can be carried out, with the conviction that we are on the right path towards international recognition.

Dr. Luis A. Dzúl López
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Editors in chief