

INDEST – Evaluation of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee of INDEST highlights the excellent contribution of the Institute to the development of research in Social Sciences and Humanities. The research areas are in line with the EU Strategy 2020 and the need to develop interdisciplinary research to provide effective responses to the problems related to the inequalities across regions. The relevance of the research areas of INDEST is particularly linked to the INTERREG programme and Science in Society of H2020.

The research lines are contributing very well to the identification of evidence to improve the social and territorial cohesion. Furthermore, the comparative dimension resulting from the activities of the INDEST groups facilitates the existence of an excellent framework to exchange successful practices to promote social and territorial development. INDEST includes in an excellent way the need to strength the collaboration with social agents, public administration and enterprises. This collaboration with very diverse agents enables the **co-creation of knowledge**, enhancing dialogue to include different voices in research. In this line of co-creation, it is important to highlight that INDEST has funded the project “Estudi de l’orientació al mercat de les cooperatives agràries de Catalunya des del punt de vista comercial i turístic”, developed with the collaboration of the “Federació de Cooperatives Agràries de Catalunya”. This initiative presents clear advances towards the co-creation of knowledge.

The INDEST strategy is fully in line with the international and European debates about the need to develop **interdisciplinary research to promote relevance and social impact**. This dimension of research is particularly addressed by the interdisciplinary projects “Envelliment actiu, qualitat de vida i relacions intergeneracionals”, “Diversitat cultural i lingüística a l’escola quebequesa, un exemple per Catalunya?”, “Prevenició de les violències des del naixement. Espais de socialització i resolució positiva dels conflictes” and “Geografia de les emocions”. The diversity of research groups developing each of the projects is excellent and demonstrates the synergies across disciplines to promote relevance and social impact of research.

INDEST has developed excellent initiatives to strengthen science communication, for instance through a specialised research seminar, dissemination activities for the general public and a one—day session to present the research projects of the groups. Furthermore, the International Congress “Social and Territorial Development” and the diverse events organized by INDEST have contributed to promote in a very convincing way the collaboration between research groups.

The activities of the INDEST research groups are in line with the most recent developments in **social impact of research** at the international level. Considering the need to achieve social improvements as a result of the research activity, this goal is particularly coherent with the projects “La diversificación como solución a la sostenibilidad de las empresas familiares en el sector agroalimentario de Catalunya”, “Cap a un nou paradigma dels acords de lliure comerç de la UE”, “Towards an efficiency analysis of multilingual workplaces: the cases of agro-industry and tourism” and “Desigualtat socioespacial i pobresa a Lleida (1991-2017)”, developed in collaboration between different research groups.



Universitat de Lleida
Institut de Desenvolupament
Social i Territorial (INDEST)

The activities described in the report 2017 and those developed and/or foreseen until November 2018 demonstrate the high quality of the lines of research of the Institute, which are fully in line with its principles and main objectives. The type of projects of the call for proposals published by INDEST is carefully prepared and very convincingly integrated considering the research domains of the groups. The actions are clearly articulated to achieve social impact in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, specially developing research that promotes the engagement of citizens. Moreover, INDEST has excellent communication channels and the use of social media is very well designed and implemented.

The **recommendations for the future** are: 1) intensify the meetings and/or events to promote collaborations between research groups; 2) include in the training sessions of science communication, the developments in social, political and social impact of research; 3) strengthen the collaboration with social agents (civil society organisations, enterprises...); 4) strengthen the need to collaborate between groups in the call for proposals; 5) promote the publication of results and maximize the use of social media.

Members of the Scientific Committee

Mirjana Pejić Bach, Full Professor at University of Zagreb.

Contact: mpejic@efzg.hr

Ramon Flecha Garcia, Full Professor at University of Barcelona.

Contact: ramon.flecha@ub.edu

Joaquín Prats Cuevas, Full Professor at University of Barcelona.

Contact: jprats@ub.edu.