

FORUM ON MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS FOR COOPERATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN ECUADOR



On July 17, 2025, within the framework of the ALPRODE Project, the Quito Chamber of Commerce (CCQ) organized the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Forum for Cooperation and Local Development, with the purpose of creating a space for dialogue and exchange in support of sustainable development, social inclusion, and the strengthening of employability in Ecuador.



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During the presentation of the event, Ecuador's Ministry of Labor highlighted opportunities for local development through employment policies with a territorial approach and multi-stakeholder participation. It proposed promoting projects for decent and inclusive employment and aligning academic training with the demands of the local labor market.

Panel: Multi-stakeholder partnerships for local development and job creation

The panel brought together representatives from the Quito Chamber of Commerce (CCQ), Ecuador's Ministry of Labor, FUDELA, and the Technical University of Loja (UTPL).

The CCQ emphasized that the most effective partnerships are those connecting young people and entrepreneurs with companies through training, mentorship, and networking opportunities. It proposed encouraging investment in young talent and creating digital employment platforms.

The Ministry of Labor mentioned progress in regulatory frameworks, the strengthening of territorial employment services, the implementation of active training and support policies, and the promotion of agreements with local governments and universities to generate sustainable and inclusive employment. FUDELA shared its experience in the labor inclusion of young people in vulnerable situations and populations on the move, emphasizing the need for political will, partnerships with companies and universities, and employability pathways integrating technical and socio-emotional training and psychosocial support, with a rights-based and participatory approach.

UTPL highlighted the importance of international cooperation in academic training to foster commitment to local development and the creation of networks among universities, municipalities, and international stakeholders.

Panel: Academic training for labor market preparation

During these sessions, the Alprode Steering Committee meeting was held in Cali, where project progress was reviewed, new actions were approved, and updates were provided on courses related to cooperation and sustainable development.

The event included the participation of the Equinoccial Technological University (UTE) and the University of Cuenca. UTE stated that university education should

incorporate pre-professional internships, active learning methodologies, and strong links with the productive sector, and that curricula should be continuously updated in line with labor market demands.

The **University of Cuenca** emphasized researching labor markets at the territorial level to adjust academic offerings to local realities and noted that universities should actively participate in local development policies in coordination with autonomous governments, companies, and social organizations.

The role of the private sector

Representatives from Metropolitan Touring highlighted the strategic role of the private sector in sustainable local development, noting that companies should not only generate employment but also act as agents of transformation within their territories.

A forum with a shared vision

During the event, an intersectoral networking space was created where proposals for improvement and cooperation were exchanged, reflecting a shared commitment to building collective solutions to the structural challenges of employment and territorial development.

For more information, visit: www.uhu.es/alprode