Engineering in Latin America: A view at the Higher Education Level

Special Session

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Abstract— **A special session is proposed to present a view of the current status of Engineering Higher Education in LatinAmerica with respect to areas in which UNIVERSIA is promoting.**

Keywords: Engineering, Higher Education

I. INTRODUCTION

UNIVERSIA, l aunched i n S pain on 9 Jul y 2000 with a clear v ocation o f serv ing the u niversity c ommunity in Latin America, is th e larg est Latin Am erican n etwork of un iversity collaboration. It in cludes 1 ,100 universities and colleges in 15 countries. Universia partner universities represent 76 percent of the uni versity group of co untries where i t operat es, wi th 10.9 million students and 885,000 teachers.

UNIVERSIA tries to act as a prom oter of cha nge and innovation to help universities to develop shared projects. Also it crea tes n ew o pportunities for th e un iversity co mmunity in order t o meet t he dem and of t he busi ness envi ronment and institutional sustainability criteria. Its vision in this way is to be the l argest networ k of S panish and Po rtuguese t hat prom otes academic and the university-industry cooperation.

II. FOCUS AREAS

This session will include papers concerning the action lines promoted by UNIVERSIA:

1. Information to support learning and training.

   - Detecting the necessities for corporate training and disseminating the academ   ic knowledge with training resources throughout universities.

   - Disseminating busi ness   experience t o t he university environment.

2. Employment. Practice and career development.

   - Helping universities to in crease th e em ployment opportunities o f graduates in co llaboration with university employment services.

   - Helping co mpanies in th e s election p rocess fo r graduates and internships.

   - Opening to teachers and re searchers channels of communication with co mpanies an d in stitutions for business development of research results.

3. Observatory. C enter for t he future of sci   ence and higher education.

   - Building physical and virt   ual spaces for   debate and di scussion on t rends in hi gher ed ucation involving all stakeholders (companies, institutions, universities, government, etc).

   - Helping the academic community in the process of transition to the new educational scenario.

4. Social Networks.

   - Creating pl atforms for l eisure part icipation on issues of interest to   academics (virtual environments, social environments, chats, blogs, contests, etc.).

   - Organizing ev ents t hat pro mote responsi ble and participative entertainment (music, sports, debates, etc.).

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