

Universidad Nacional Experimental de los Llanos Centrales

Rómulo Gallegos (UNERG)

Área Ciencias de la Educación

Centro de Estudios

e Investigación (CEIACERG)



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Depósito Legal Número: GU218000006
ISSN: 2610-816X

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**REVISTA ELECTRÓNICA
SEMESTRAL**

Volumen 8 Número 2

JULIO 2025

Venezuela



The University as a Seedbed for Social and Productive Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development

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Line of Research: Curriculum, Training and Pedagogical Innovation

How to cite this article: Ana Carolina Torreyes y Juan Carlos Ascanio López “The University as a Seedbed for Social and Productive Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development” (2025), (1,25)

Received: 05/10/2025 Revised: 05/11/2025 Accepted: 05/15/2025

ABSTRACT

This documentary study aimed to analyze how universities serve as seedbeds of social and productive innovation and entrepreneurship development, identifying key training strategies and institutional mechanisms. Methodologically, it adhered to an interpretive paradigm with a qualitative approach, employing systematic literature review and documentary content analysis as the main techniques. The results revealed that the university acts as an integrated ecosystem where social innovation (Phills et al., 2008), productive innovation (Mansfield, 1991; Clark, 1998), and entrepreneurship promotion (Etzkowitz, 2003; Phan et al., 2005) are interconnected dimensions. The need for a missional and cultural transformation (Hazelkorn, 2015; Audretsch, 2007), the development of supportive infrastructures and enabling policies, and a dual training approach that combines technical knowledge with entrepreneurial skills and tacit knowledge (Lam, 2010) were identified. The conclusions underscore that, to be an effective training center, the university must adopt an expanded mission, implement comprehensive training strategies, and establish coherent institutional mechanisms. Social innovation is emerging as an increasingly crucial dimension. This multifaceted role is essential for the university to contribute significantly to economic and social development, requiring a holistic commitment that goes beyond isolated functions. Future research could focus on empirical case studies to delve deeper into the implementation and impact of these strategies in specific contexts.

Descriptors: University, Incubator, Innovation, Social, Productive, Entrepreneurship

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