

Doctoral School of Management  
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PAPER PRESENTATION

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**The Financing systems of students' mobility. A study case: Ecuador**

Workshop: Organizational network and employee issues

Type of paper: Conceptual

Abstract:

The recent literature on students' and graduates' mobility underlines the link between those two forms of human capital mobility, and set forth how the different systems currently at work for financing the higher education of the cross-border students are often unsustainable and inefficient, generating positive and negative externalities. Starting from this, the project aims at analysing alternative systems and at assessing their effects on mobility.

A particular attention will be paid to the apparently successful outcome of the Ecuadorian scholarship' system. In 2007 the Republic of Ecuador introduced a new and original scholarship program for financing Ecuadorian students intending to study abroad. The Ecuadorian model provides a compulsory return to the home country with the obligation of working at home for the double of time length that they have spent abroad. If students don't satisfy with that condition, they have to return the entire amount of the perceived scholarship. In exchange, authorities help the students finding a job if necessary. Statistical data show a return rate of about 90%, which is somehow surprising at first glance. On that basis, this work aims to understand that system, using both a theoretical and empirical approach.

Beyond enabling us to understand and evaluate that particular system, possible lessons for the management of a higher education device, of its impact on the efficiency and growth of domestic firms, and more generally for the management of national human research, will be suggested.