

# **Strengthening Innovation Skills in Higher Education Through an Interdisciplinary Continuing Education Program**

**Paula Enciso; Florencia Palma; Sofía Horjales; Nelly Beguerie; Graciela Lesna**

Technological University/ Department of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

## **Abstract**

The Interdisciplinary Continuing Education Program is part of the Department of Innovation and Entrepreneurship of the Technological University in Uruguay (UTEC). The goal is to strengthen innovation skills through a transversal and multidisciplinary approach. With a diverse team of teachers and an innovative educational proposal, it aims to motivate students and professionals from the community where UTEC is located to continue their studies.

This program has defined three strategic lines for its development:

- STEAM, Gender, Inclusion, and Sustainability.

It involves the design of interdisciplinary and inter-program projects and activities that integrate a STEAM model to stimulate the interest of girls and adolescents in these areas, in line with the sustainable development objectives. It also proposes the development of concrete actions to reduce the gender gap in our educational institution.

- Competences.

This line aims to develop innovation competencies in the University and with the community, as well as to provide tools for planning academic and professional life.

- University-Work

In this part, proposals are put forward to improve employability, based on an analysis of the needs of the productive sector, and to support the employment insertion of students who are about to graduate.

In this work, we will show how the gestation of the program began within our university, the specific objectives, the activities carried out so far, and what the perspectives are.

**Keywords:** employment insertion, gender equity, innovation skills, interdisciplinarity, STEAM