

Universities promote articulation to build the vision of the future of Porto Alegre

Events discuss strategies for the engagement of society in an innovation pact

"Today we are making history because the agents capable of promoting progress through innovation to the communities of Porto Alegre are present here." With this speech, UFRGS' President Rui Vicente Oppermann opened the meeting on July 2nd, held at the UFRGS' Reitoria, alongside the presidents of two other universities – Marcelo Fernandes de Aquino, President of Universidade do Vale dos Sinos (UNISINOS), and Evilázio Teixeira, President of Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (PUC-RS). The three presidents of the signatory institutions of the Alliance for Innovation received the Mayor Nelson Marchezan Júnior and representatives of business entities to start a joint program for the creation of the innovation ecosystem in Porto Alegre. The meeting was attended by Josep Piqué, president of the International Association of Science and Technology Parks and Innovation Areas (IASP), one of the founders of the Barcelona @22 Project, which transformed the Spanish city into a reference in the area of smart cities and innovation districts around the world. Faculty members from the three universities were also present – among whom there are some who take part in the Alliance work groups, making research contributions and rendering knowledge on innovation ecosystems produced in the academy.

This meeting at UFRGS was the first in a series of meetings that Piqué will participate in Porto Alegre as an articulation consultant that aims to transform Porto Alegre into a reference center of innovation. In addition to meetings with working groups, meetings are held with businessmen, with the City Council and the press, among other agents, to engage the various sectors in the formation of a joint agenda that will transform the city. A meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, 4, with the community at the Unisinos Theater (located at Nilo Peçanha Avenue, 1600 - Porto Alegre), from 8:30 a.m. to 12 a.m.

Open to the external public, the Wednesday event will be the highlight of the week because it will be an opportunity to learn about innovation cases, seek a common agenda and strengthen the ecosystem.

The presidents of Unisinos and PUC-RS also expressed satisfaction in seeing how the Alliance for Innovation is giving the first results in terms of engagement for the transformation of the city. According to the UNISINOS' President Marcelo, the actors involved in this process must have the lucidity of not falling into the traps of the sterile debate of the partisan and ideological generalization, which is a factor of disunion. PUC's President says he is optimistic about the fruits of this articulation, stressing that the Alliance should not be made of individual adventures. According to Piqué, the alliance formed by the universities puts a key element in the articulation because it invites the public administration and the companies to combine their energies to the development of a great pact for innovation in Porto Alegre. "This is the big news because it means that universities and companies understand how important joint work is, and therefore governance means that universities take responsibility over the process and put their assets and capabilities at the disposal of Porto Alegre," he said.

Translation by Marcelo Viana Soares, under the supervision and translation revision of Professor Elizamari R. Becker (PhD) – UFRGS/IL.



Partnership to transform Porto Alegre into an innovation center -
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