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### **Presentation: Recent Experiences of Innovación in the Social Economy, Health and Artificial Intelligence at the Municipal Planning level.**

This 38th edition of CAYAPA Venezuelan Journal of Social Economy presents a selection of six research articles that share a common focus on proposals for the territorialisation of sustainable development, incorporating innovations in response to the opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We find ourselves in a context where Artificial Intelligence and digitalisation are having an impact on public administration and public health; consequently, the works gathered here offer a critical and proactive perspective from a possible angle within Venezuelan academia, rooted in municipal reality, agricultural innovation and the epistemology of community care. The issue is complemented by a book review, a section featuring a research seminar, and a section dedicated to social innovation events that bring together researchers and stakeholders from the social and solidarity economy.

**Articles section:** We open this issue with a collaborative piece by Professors José Farreras, Patricia Novoa, María Bencomo, David Nimer and Efraín Ortega, affiliated with the Universidad de los Llanos Ezequiel Zamora (UNELLEZ) and the Venezuelan Agricultural Academy. Their article on *Community Hubs and Centres for Agricultural Training and Innovation* addresses a topic of interest in the analysis of Venezuela's food system and its need for transformation, contributing from the perspective of the territorialisation of agricultural sciences. In their analysis, they propose an innovative methodological framework to embed scientific knowledge within communities, linking university education with the specific needs of the Venezuelan agricultural sector, in line with the principles of the social economy. Next, a lecturer from the University of Margarita (UNIMAR), Del Valle López Sayago, presents a paper on the *Municipal Tax Revolution 4.0*. This article examines the challenges and trends in local fiscal management in Venezuela, which is of strategic importance for the financial sustainability of local areas. The author reflects on how digital tools can strengthen municipal autonomy and the relationship between the local government and citizens.

Moving on to the field of health and ancestral knowledge, Angélica Del Valle Páez Herrera, a lecturer from the Venezuelan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, presents findings on the *management of ethnobotanical knowledge of medicinal plants*, in a study that highlights the importance of the active participation of social economy actors and academic institutions in the

preservation and promotion of traditional Venezuelan herbal medicine, a biocultural heritage that requires collaborative, non-extractivist management models.

Afterwards, Lisbeth Gregoria Contreras Lobo, lecturer at the University of Los Andes (ULA), examines—from the perspective of the epistemology of health—the tensions and opportunities arising from the contrast between *global AI approaches and local community-based malaria diagnosis*. The article proposes a critical dialogue between high technology and local knowledge to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of vector-borne disease control, as in the case of malaria.

While from the perspective of social responsibility, accountability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2030), Mario Fagiolo (UDO) and Andrés Marcano (ULA) make a contribution from the Doctorate in Human Sciences at ULA, highlighting the relevance of the Cooperative Social Balance Sheet to the SDGs 2030. They propose a systemic approach that integrates the GRI Standards and the University of Deusto Model from the Basque Country, offering a robust tool for social economy organisations to measure and communicate their real impact on sustainable development, beyond merely financial profitability.

Finally, the volume includes a study on smart territory planning by Professors Austin Mata García and Tomás González Oropeza of the Universidad de Oriente (UDO). Their study on the *municipal categorisation of Margarita Island for smart tourism planning* offers a methodology for organising the island's tourism potential. Against a backdrop of intense pressure on coastal ecosystems, this work represents a significant contribution to balanced and sustainable local development in the state of Nueva Esparta.

**Book Reviews section.** This section features a review by Dorkis Shephard, a lecturer at Simón Rodríguez University, of the collective work entitled *Social Economy and Sustainability*, edited by Rosas Baños and Conde Bonfil (2020). It is a reference text for understanding the theoretical intersections between the solidarity economy and the environmental crisis in the Mexican and Latin American context.

**The Social Innovation Events section** presents two significant events. One relates to the moving tribute speech to the medical profession delivered by Professor Emiliano Marcano in the municipality of Antolín, Nueva Esparta state. The other is the call for participation issued by the UNESCO

Chair in Social Economy and the Cooperative University of Colombia for the 6th International Meeting on Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation, to be held in Santa Marta in October 2026.

**The Research Projects section** contains an invitation from the ULA's Doctorate in Human Sciences to participate in the Seminar on Innovations in the Social Economy, Health and Education for Local Development in the Digital Age, a virtual event marking the 25th anniversary of the journal CAYAPA. The seminar aims to present the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and its organisations (SSEOs) as a subject of study in the academic field, and will be coordinated by Dr Benito Díaz.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the authors, the Editorial Board, the team of referees, the editorial assistants, the layout team, and the invaluable technical support provided by SABER.ULA and CDCHTA.ULA. Their commitment ensures that CAYAPA continues to be a source of inspiration for critical reflection on the Social Economy in Venezuela and around the world. We extend our warmest thanks and GRAZIE to the GRUPPO DI AMICI ITALIANI for their constant solidarity.

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