Intercultural, communitarian university URACCAN

What is it about?
The University of the Autonomous Regions of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast URACCAN contributes to the autonomy process of the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua by providing professionalization and vocational training to the population, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and intercultural citizenship of the population.

Why an intervention?
Necessity to improve the administrative capacities of the region; interest in autonomous human resources; prevention of brain drain; a more intercultural higher education; higher education for self-development.

What does it change?
Academic impact: Lecturers with improved capacities; bilingualism; intercultural curricula; regional languages are included in education; postgraduate program.
Impact on the life of the students: changes in personal development and in the perception of the environment of the indigenous youth.
Impact on the autonomous scale: passing of laws; participative structure of the Regional Autonomous Education System (SEAR)

How does it work?
- Experience alliance: URACCAN, municipal, territorial, regional governments of the autonomous regions of NIC (RAAN/S), grassroots NGOs, national council of universities;
- Implementing the pedagogical model:
  o linking occidental and endogenous knowledge;
  o Academic practice: interrelationship of multiple ethnicities;
  o Value traditional knowledge
  o Accessibility: 4 university campuses; academic training on various levels; leadership schools; scholarships for students from remote communities.
- Community certification programs for indigenous or afro-descendant community leaders.
- International university cooperation.

Who are the beneficiaries?
- The population of the RAAN/S;
- students and teachers;
- community leaders;
- indigenous communities, afro-descendants and ethnic communities in the RAAN/S;
- regional public institutions;
- Nicaraguan university system

Who could use that approach?
Relevant conditions to reproduce the approach: *Institutional:* organization, management, with resources; *Social:* partnerships, participative and inclusive processes, local leadership skills; *Technical-economic:* investment in ICT, diverse financial sources.

Who is already using it?
Similar experiences: Participants from the network of intercultural indigenous universities in Latin America.

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AUSTRIAN ORGANISATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Sector:	Education
Period:	1995-2013
Organisation:	URRACAN
Further material:	Training handouts, cultural magazines
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