

Responsible Research & Innovation

Ever since it was founded, the EDO group has considered the core of its essence to be the inclusion of principles and values in line with the education sector where it carries out its main research activity. In this sense, the actions performed to foster these principles included in responsible research and innovation include:

Ethics

In the development of its research, the EDO group has always considered the importance of ensuring the privacy and anonymity of the participants in the studies. In this sense, in recent years the following elements have been added to enhance this effort:

- *Informed Consent*: All interviewees must fill out and sign this sheet.
- *Protection of Vulnerable Individuals*: In studies in which minors participate, their parents or legal guardians must provide prior consent for them to participate in the study.
- *Confidentiality Contracts*: All members and contributors of the EDO group pledge in writing not to use the data to which they have access to participate in research projects outside the specific purposes for which these data have been collected.
- *Privacy*: All the data collected during the studies performed are processed together, thus maintaining the privacy of the individuals who provided it.

Gender equality

Gender equality is a concern addressed by the members of EDO. In this regard, the following aspects are considered in the group:

- *Parity in team members*: Currently, the group is composed of 64% females and 36% males. International standards state that a minimum of 40% of the less represented gender should be guaranteed, and we are close to meeting that standard. Furthermore, we strive to ensure gender parity when assembling the working groups related to the projects.
- *Integration of the gender dimension into our research*: In this case, the studies performed consider gender yet another variable to be analyzed independently. Likewise, the group has carried out projects that have focused on analyzing gender roles in university management, as well as

on analyzing gender as a factor of vulnerability in access to and graduation from higher education.

- *Training on gender:* Right now, the researchers in the group who are also UAB instructors are working to analyze the inclusion of gender as a cross-cutting subject in bachelor's degree programs in the UAB's Faculty of Education. Members of the group are also participating in defining the new bachelor's degree in Gender Studies which is currently being designed in the UAB's Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

Governance

EDO works on analyzing educational institutions in particular, as well as institutions that in some way contribute to education or training. Along these lines, the studies carried out always strive to generate results which can help the managers of these organizations at different levels learn how to improve their governance. In this regard, some of the actions that have been implemented are related to:

- *Involvement in design:* The development of research projects in the field of organization must have the participation of the organization's managers starting from the design stage. To this end, whenever possible we seek to get managers involved so they can provide access to the informants and the information, and also so they can learn first-hand about the progress in the research.
- *Returning results:* Whenever possible, owing to the obligation to preserve the informants' right to anonymity, the results from our studies are forwarded to the managers of the organizations that have participated in the process. The goal in doing this is to provide them with tools and data that can facilitate their decision-making.
- *Contact with government bodies:* EDO is currently working in educational management and training in the public administration. In this area, it considers forwarding the results of the studies to these bodies as yet another of its day-to-day activities, as is holding meetings with them whenever possible. An EDO member is currently involved in the School Council of Catalonia and, when requested, has participated in lectures to develop the regulations affecting aspects related to the group's lines of research.

Open access

The EDO group's results have always been open-access so that all researchers and professionals who want to access them are able to do so. However, the potential of new technologies has allowed us to make further progress in this direction and to ensure that these results can reach all citizens, either scholars or not, who may be interested in our research. In this sense, the actions undertaken and planned are the following:

- Direct access: On the group's website, we have pushed for the inclusion of direct links to the publications, if allowed, as well as to the main models of use generated within the applied research.
- EDO library: Through the UAB's Digital Document Repository (<http://ddd.uab.cat>), we have launched a process of adding all the group's publications that are not protected by publishers' copyrights in a single, open-access database.
- Creative Commons: As long as economic conditions have permitted, the results of projects have been published under open-access Creative Commons licenses, thus giving a larger number of people the chance to access the research results.
- Informative workshops: For the past four years, the results of the group's different research projects have been disseminated in final presentation workshops, to which professionals and scholars interested in the topics have been invited. Some of these have ended up becoming channels to disseminate the results from the different lines of research (beyond the projects), such as the EDO/CEJFE Workshops (2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017 editions), the EDO International Conferences (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 editions), and the "University and Vulnerable Groups" Conferences (2014 and 2019 editions).

Citizen participation

The development of increasingly fluid channels of communication allows for access to a higher number of people with whom to act and interact in the definition of new research projects, facilitates access to informants, and helps spread the results of the studies. The actions under way and planned in this vein include:

- *Workshops and debate seminars:* The periodic activities carried out by EDO to disseminate the results of its research allow it to fulfil a twofold objective: first, to share the results with interested scholars and professionals and, second, to serve as a barometer to capture their impressions and specific lines of work so as to be able to direct future research and training activities.
- *Social media:* Participation by an increasing number of people in social media makes it necessary for research groups to also have a social media presence. In this regard, EDO has profiles on social media including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube, through which it disseminates its activities while at the same time gathering users' impressions of them.

EDO is determined to get more and more involved in the social milieu where it operates. To this end, EDO-UDL is moving forward in its effort to work with the local administrations and education centers to define applied research proposals, as well as to work with teams which include staff from outside

university academia. EDO-UAB has also considered action-research designs which should not only help develop explanatory models but also define new models to guide the action of education professionals.

Scientific education

As a research group associated with an education faculty, part of the group's activity focuses on training future teachers. In this regard, the group has also promoted the existence of master's programs in Education in Panama, with specialties in science, mathematics, and language and literature. The goal is to train professionals capable of conveying scientific knowledge and values to the next generation. More locally, the members of EDO-UAB participate in specific programs to spark scientific interest in youth, specifically:

- *ARGÓ PROGRAM*: Through this program, EDO faculty help supervise baccalaureate research projects with students interested in the group's lines of research.
- *ITACA PROGRAM*: The goal of this program is to bring science to secondary school students, who visit the UAB Campus for two weeks. The objective is to motivate students who are about to complete compulsory secondary education to remain enrolled in the system and pursue higher education.

The activities of the EDO group, via EDO-SERVEIS, include supporting research groups in non-educational areas so that their results can also be shared with society. In this vein, work is under way to adapt materials to disseminate results to a spectrum of the public beyond academia. This is a path we plan to continue exploring in order to forge synergies between the research group's knowledge of the field of education and the need for research groups from other scholarly fields to share their results with society.