



COLCIENCIAS  
C O L O M B I A

**T**he Instituto Colombiano para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y la Tecnología (Colombian Institute for the Development of Science and Technology) "Francisco José de Caldas" – COLCIENCIAS – is a governmental institution, dependent on the National Planning Department. Since its establishment in 1968, it has been responsible for promoting scientific and technological advances, incorporating science, technology and innovation to the country's economic and social development programs and plans, as well as for the formulation of long- and medium-term science and technology plans.

Its mission is the promotion of scientific and technological development and innovation, the stimulation of innovative capabilities for the productive sector, the strengthening of services which provide support to scientific research and technological development, the facilitation of public engagement with scientific knowledge, the consolidation of the National Science, Technology and Innovation System, and in general, the promotion of creativity from Colombians in order to improve the country's quality of life and development.

In the year 2020, COLCIENCIAS will be the leading organization in the generation of policies and capabilities that allow the incorporation of science, technology and innovation into the country's culture, and to turn knowledge into the main force of local, regional and national development.

This strategic vision follows the institutional purpose of "Building a nation based upon the generation and use of knowledge".

# INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGY

**COLCIENCIAS serves all actors of the National Science, Technology and Innovation System, as well as the Colombian society in general, through the following actions and decisions:**

- ▶ Formulation, promotion and execution of policies, strategies and instruments that guarantee scientific and technological development as well as innovation, based on its needs and potential.
- ▶ Comprehensive support towards the construction and consolidation of capabilities for science, technology and innovation at a local, regional and national level, as the most complex, urgent, and direct present responsibility.
- ▶ Promotion and Public Engagement with Science, Technology and Innovation to generate a commitment, and to benefit the Colombian society as a whole, in the construction of culture and use of knowledge.

## PRIORITY ACTION LINES

**Through its activities in the development of policies and the generation of national capabilities, COLCIENCIAS seeks to:**

- 1** Advance in the consolidation of capabilities for science, technology and innovation.
- 2** Promote innovation in Colombia.
- 3** Strengthen the institutionality of Science, Technology and Innovation (ST+I), thus making this sector a priority for the government and the private actors.
- 4** Manage to include ST+I into the public and private agendas for all regions.
- 5** Strengthen the social perception about the pertinence and importance of science, technology and innovation.
- 6** Promote the internationalization of Colombian science, technology and innovation.
- 7** Institutionally strengthen COLCIENCIAS, so that it becomes the landmark of public administration in Colombia.

In order to comply with, and achieve the aforementioned action lines, COLCIENCIAS has several mechanisms at hand:

## Project financing

COLCIENCIAS finances research, innovation and technological development projects for private, public or mixed institutions and companies, either national or international with domestic residence, in all areas of knowledge, and economic sectors, whenever technically feasible according to peer evaluation, approved by the corresponding institutional instances, and have proper budget allocation. The financing of these projects can be up to 80% of the total budget.

COLCIENCIAS has four financing alternatives:

### 1. Contingent Recovery

It applies mainly to the financing of projects whose expected results are not directly appropriable by the beneficiary, or those which, due to their nature, will not generate immediate economic benefits. The beneficiary institution is not forced to reimburse the financing amount, unless it does not fulfill the goals specified in the project.

### 2. Co-Financing

It applies to research and technological development projects, which are executed through strategic alliances between companies and universities, research centers, or technological development centers. Under this modality, COLCIENCIAS finances –not expecting reimbursement– up to 70% of the project's amount for small and medium sized companies, and, for large companies, up to 50% of this amount. Such amount is destined to cover all costs derived from the participation in the project by the university, research center or technological development center.

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### 3. Mandatory Reimbursement Loan (Credit)

It applies to corporate technological innovation and development projects, proposed by public or private companies, which expected results are appropriable by the beneficiary institution, and also generate economic profit. The acquired goods, and the achievements reached through this modality will be, in this case, the sole property of the beneficiary institution, but it will assume a commitment to reimburse COLCIENCIAS or the financing entity, the full amount of the loan, as well as financial costs.

### 4. Shared Risk

It applies to innovation and development projects that imply a high technological and commercial risk, developed by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Colombia. This alternative is financed with both non-refundable or allowable resources, as well as refundable resources. Depending on the degree of commercial and technological success, COLCIENCIAS will determine the percentage that will be non-refundable and the amount that is to be reimbursed.

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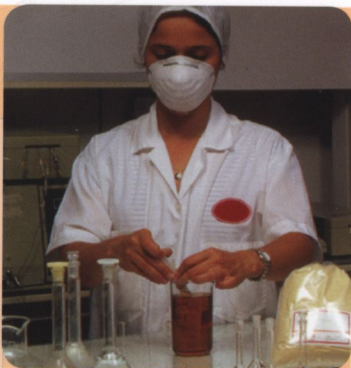


## Support to excellence research centers

Excellence Centers are a "National network of high level research groups, grouped around a common working program in a scientific and technological area, that is considered strategic for the country. Aside from having been recognized or being in the process of being recognized, the groups that participate in an Excellence Center must comply the following conditions: develop state-of-the-art research under permanent contact with international peer institutions; support the training of human resources at masters and doctorate degree levels; knowledge transfer generated towards the productive sector; present the results of their work in international indexed publications; and commitment to the processes for intellectual property and patents protection".

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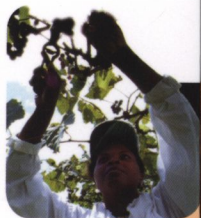


## Financing protectable technologies

Protection of intellectual property is considered to be a mechanism for the economic return of R&D activities, which has implications over economic growth and development (Market logic). For instance, COLCIENCIAS has committed to finance activities related to the protection of intangibles in invention patents, and in patents for the use of models. Such support will be conditioned to the actual issuing of the protection, as well as to the economic and commercial feasibility of the protected product or method.

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## Support to research groups and centers

In Colombia, there are over 2.500 research groups, many of which have sufficient quality to compete internationally.

Some of them are in universities (linked to Graduate programs) and others are grouped under autonomous research centers, or in technological development centers, where they carry out projects as well as research and development activities with companies.

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## Development and training of human talent and strengthening of the national scientific community

Its mission is the expansion and multiplication of social capital for research in science and technology, supporting the training of highly qualified human talent, promoting the strengthening, consolidation, and diversification of groups, centers for technological research and development, and knowledge institutions.

### 1. Non-refundable credits for post-graduate studies abroad

The program for human talent training of science, technology and innovation grants credits potentially non-refundable to study doctorate and masters degrees abroad. For the program to have a real impact over the country's research and innovation capabilities, it is necessary to guarantee locations in the country, where human talent is able to exploit the acquired capabilities.

### 2. Return Program

The return program seeks to incorporate new Ph.D.s, scientists and innovators who desire to work in the country.

### 3. Young Researchers Program

It seeks to enroll young talents who have recently graduated from their university studies, and possess a clear trend towards research, into the technological development and research groups and centers of excellence in the country.

This initiative seeks to be a solid incentive to bring the capabilities of young, talented professionals closer to research and development initiatives, so they will be trained through a philosophy of "training by following a structured doing."

In the traditional alternative, COLCIENCIAS contributes 40% of the payment agreed for the young researcher, while the hiring institution contributes the remaining 60%. In the regional-topic alternative, COLCIENCIAS' contribution is 70% and in the corporate alternative the contribution is 60%.

### 4. Program for National Doctorate Studies

The purpose of this program is to support the consolidation and strengthening of the national scientific community through domestic doctorate programs. The three financed components are: support to infrastructure through a budget line that allows the acquisition of high level equipment to, promote top of the line research; second, mobility of domestic and foreign researchers, seeking to create networks of researchers, scientific visibility and an increase in national publications; and, third, non-refundable national based credits for doctorate studies.

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### 5 Research for Children and Teenagers

Programa Ondas ("Waves" Program) is COLCIENCIAS' strategy, oriented towards children and young population, with the purpose of stimulating a culture around science and technology, especially from primary, middle and high school levels.

It has two main purposes: to gain interest and passion towards science and technology through constant support to research projects suggested and developed by children and teenagers with their teachers, and to strengthen their capacity to promote a culture towards science and technology in the different regions, from an early age.

#### Further Information:

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### 6 Indexing and Standardization Service of Science and Technology Journals

The Índice Bibliográfico Nacional (National Bibliographical Index) – Publindex, is a permanent service for the indexing of Colombian journals specializing in science and technology, that allows for the selection and classification of journals according to search criteria for editorial and scientific quality, and also to stability and visibility profiles that are internationally renowned by scientific publications.

The standardization of foreign scientific journals is analog to the indexing process for national journals. This standardization is applied to foreign science and technology journals, which publish original research results, using evaluation by peers to certify knowledge, and that satisfy the international norms for scientific as well as editorial quality, and appear in Indexation and Summary Systems (ISS), increasing their visibility and access to published documents.

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## Internationalization of colombian scientific and technological activities

The internationalization of scientific and technological activities is a priority strategy among the different participants in the National Science and Technology System.

COLCIENCIAS facilitates articulation among local and international scientific communities, using international collaboration mechanisms, the management of information about sources of collaboration around the world, and the coordination of scientific and technological exchange programs, by promoting the insertion of the Colombian community into international research networks and projects abroad. Furthermore, it does so through the articulation of initiatives by Colombian scientists in other countries, and the management of international relationships, through the negotiation of new scenarios for scientific and technological cooperation.

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## Science and technology information systems

COLCIENCIAS promotes the development of training mechanisms and instruments for the collection, processing and communication of information that contributes and supports the progress of knowledge, as well as strengthens the information systems for the National System of Science, Technology and Innovation.

### • **ScienTI-Colombia: Platform for the Future**

This is a state-of-the-art technological platform, developed with the most modern open use software technologies, with its capabilities for online technological surveillance and competitive intelligence.

ScienTI-Colombia, puts the country at the front line in Latin America, with regard to technologies for managing ST+I, adding visibility to the results from scientific activities and those tending towards technological development and innovation, and allowing its tracking and following-up in both national and international environments: [www.colciencias.gov.co/scienti](http://www.colciencias.gov.co/scienti)

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### • **Document Center and Library**

The COLCIENCIAS Document Center and Library seeks to become the National Center for Information about Scientific, Technological and Innovation Policy. It includes a collection of Scientific and Technological Policies, and a collection of Institutional archives; the latter comprised by the final reports of all research projects and publications financed by COLCIENCIAS.

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## Tax benefits to stimulate science and technology activities

Challenges stemming from increasing globalization demand nations, specially those in the process of development, ever larger efforts in all fields of human activity and, in particular, in science and technology. For this reason, COLCIENCIAS promotes:

- **Deductions on income taxes from investments or donations made to research, innovation and technological development projects.**

Any individual who invests in projects classified by the National Science and Technology Council as scientific, technological or of technological innovation in nature, will be able to deduct 125 percent of the invested value for the fiscal period during which the investment was made,

The same benefit applies to people who make donations to universities, research centers or Centers for Technological Development, destined to the development of projects that are scientific, technological, or technologically innovative in nature, classified by the National Science and Technology Council.

- **VAT Tax exemption on equipment and elements imported during the course of research, innovation and technological development projects.**

COLCIENCIAS certifies the nature of scientific research or technological innovation of projects being carried out by research centers, technological development centers, and higher learning institutions, and evaluates the need to import equipment and elements for their development, in order to authorize exemptions on Value Added Tax (VAT), by the National Revenue Service (DIAN), on equipment and elements being imported.

- **Income tax exemption to new software products and medications.**

In compliance with Law 788 of 2002, new software products and medication developed in Colombia, with a high level of national scientific and technological research, will be entitled to exemptions on income taxes. COLCIENCIAS is responsible for conducting the evaluation of the high level of national scientific and technological research in products requesting exemptions.

### Further Information:

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## Public engagement with science, technology and innovation

In the construction of a nation, the participation of the majority of its members who will value and promote the generation and use of knowledge, in the processes for the development of science and technology becomes a key factor.

COLCIENCIAS supports the formation and development of a science, technology and innovation culture in all Colombians, through mechanisms of information, non formal, and informal education in children, teenagers and adults. In order to accomplish the above, it counts on programs, projects and activities to contribute to the understanding and engagement with science and technology; raise public awareness, allowing it to participate in decision making processes about ST+I, and the use of this knowledge to solve tasks and problems that affect them both directly, and indirectly. The set of these processes has been dubbed Public Engagement with ST+I.

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