

Partner Presentation Form

Name of the organisation:	Universidad Hispanoamericana	
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Tel:	+506 2106 3048	
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Name of the contact person:	Marianela Salazar Ramos	
Function:	Process Analyst for the Vice-Rectorate of Research and Professional Development.	
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Type of organisation:

SME ☐ School ☐ University ☒ Public Authority ☐
 Training ☐ No Profit ☐ NGO ☐

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs ☐ Youth ☐ Universities ☒ Public Authorities ☐
 Equal opportunities ☐ Schools ☐ Unemployed ☐

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

Universidad Hispanoamericana was founded in 1982 to offer programs in Business Administration, Accounting, Advertising and Tourism. Since then, the University has grown and today it has six undergraduate schools: Health Sciences, Engineering, Architecture, Business, Social Sciences, Education Sciences and a Graduate School with seven Master programs.

With more than 40 years of experience, Universidad Hispanoamericana has grown and today has four campuses, three of them in the GAM (Great Metropolitan Area of Costa Rica), the central zone of the country where most urban areas are found. It is possible to travel between these campuses by bus or car in less than an hour. The fourth campus is in Puntarenas, a province that covers most of the Pacific coast of the country.

The University has about 70 people working full time and over 600 teachers.

UH has developed national and international partnerships in Latin America and Europe to work in different projects, like COIL and Mirrow classes, seminars and congresses. UH also is a partner in other Erasmus+ projects.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

Universidad Hispanoamericana is a partner of the CIELO project, an Erasmus+ project for CBHE that started in 2023 and will end in June 2026. This project has partners in Finland, Latvia and Poland, as well as Mexico, Costa Rica, and Chile.

More information of this project in: <https://cielo-erasmus.net/>

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

Universidad Hispanoamericana is Costa Rica has infrastructure that allows students and teachers to access internet and all its the tools, including AI. Many teachers had been capacitated in how to use some of these technologies, including some AI tools. This capacitation comes imbedded in other courses for teachers (virtual teaching, gamification, etc.) However, this capacitation is optional.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

- UH has a strong Education Faculty as well as Law and Computer Engineering Schools. All of these have teachers and staff that are experts in their areas. Many of them work for UH as well as other entities, which allows for a great pool of expertise and experience.
- UH has staff and infrastructure to create and impart online courses in MOOC format, which might prove a good way to provide stakeholders with comprehensive information regarding the project objectives.
- UH also has infrastructure where workshops, discussion groups and seminars can take place.
- UH has alliances with private and public institutions, as well as NGOs. Among these organizations are possible stakeholders for the project.
- UH also has a strong Communications Department that can support the communication efforts of the project.

Reasons of involvement in the project

For UH, as a Latin American institution, is important to understand and take place in the changes that AI are bringing, in a way that is ethical and contributes to the benefit of its teachers, students and staff. It is normal for these kinds of technologies to be born, evolve and get regulated in developed countries, as it is normal for countries like Costa Rica to follow the tendencies that appear.

UH wants to break this tendency and get involve in the research and decision making that can impact in a positive way the path that new technologies and their user's follow.

Already, teachers and students of UH are doing their best to get the most out of the AI tools they can access, but for them, there is no clear path of how to best utilize these technologies.

A project that allows for the time and resources to reflect on this technology and its used, in a collaborative way, and that plans on coming up with a proposal, has a great importance for UH.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Marianela Salazar Ramos graduated in Industrial Engineering from Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR) in 2011. She has worked in academia since 2014, as a teacher and administrative staff.

Marianela has experience in online courses creating (instructional design) and in academic accreditation of educational programs, both with national and international agencies.

Marianela has worked as the coordinator for UH of the CIELO project (an Erasmus+ project for CBHE).

Piero Vignoli Chesler who had previously been working as an attorney and notary, returned to the field of law in 1987, which he still practices today. In addition, he possesses an extensive background in academia, where he has been a law teacher at university level for more than three decades. He has been teaching classes in a variety different institutions at national level. As a result of his exceptional career as a teacher, he is now the Director of Law School at Universidad Hispanoamericana. He also serves as a thesis tutor for students who are nearing the end of their studies, providing them with guidance and support as they come to a successful conclusion.

German Salazar Santamaría, graduated as an attorney and notary in the year 2006. He has a distinguished expertise in the field of notarial and registral law, which he obtained from the Escuela Libre de Derecho in Costa Rica, in 2008. In addition, he possesses a strong academic background, having successfully completed a master's degree in criminal law at the University of Inej in Panama in the year 2024. In addition to having a career spanning over 20 years, he has distinguished himself as a teacher at the university level, teaching classes at a variety of institutions at the national level, in areas of "Derecho de las Obligaciones", "Derecho Notarial y Registral", as well as courses for postgraduate students. In addition, he serves as a thesis tutor for students who are working on their graduation projects.

Jairo Alberto Zúñiga Gomez is a bilingual Computer Science Engineer and certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with over 25 years of experience in Software Development and 13 years in Project Management, impacting over 105 public institutions through mission-critical projects.

Jairo is distinguished by 6 years of university-level teaching experience across multiple institutions, mentoring and tutoring computer science students in modern programming languages. He is an expert in software architecture who has led digital transformations across the Americas, including government-scale projects collaborating with MIT Media Lab on Machine Learning solutions.

Rubén Fallas Peña is a Systems Engineer with bachelor's degrees in computer science and teaching, master's degrees in Cybersecurity, Educational Administration, as well as specializations and certifications in Telecommunications, Infrastructure, Cybersecurity, Cybercrime, Data Protection, Digital Forensics, IT Management, IT Law, Artificial Intelligence, and Communication.

Rubén is a nNational and international speaker on topics related to Technology (Cybersecurity, Cybercrime, Artificial Intelligence, among others) and Human Rights, Afro-descendancy, Ethics, Inclusion, and the eradication of Bullying, Cyberbullying, and associated discriminations.

Rubén is a university teacher and Academic Coordinator of the School of Computer Engineering at the Universidad Hispanoamericana of Costa Rica. Cybersecurity professor at the Universidad Politécnica of Costa Rica, and instructor at the CISCO NetAcad Academy.

Rubén is also the Technology Manager at the U.S.-based company Valor Global IT Costa Rica, responsible

for providing support to U.S. companies: ADT Security and T-Mobile.