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A PROPOSAL

Small research communities networks through HE Institutions in Mexico looking abroad. Sergio Martinez Romo. The Metropolitan Autonomous University, México. sergio48@ correo.xoc.uam.mx, profesermromo@hotmail.com

OUTLINE

Similar to the policy suggesting the building of research universities in some countries from Asia and Latin America, Public Research Centers (CPI) devoted to research and postgraduate studies have been developed in Mexico since the middle eighties. The creation and establishment of these Centers came out from a research policy emphasis and over time have concentrated human and financial resources devoted for research, together with four solid Public Universities, out from the total number of Public Universities (33) in Mexico (Martínez Romo, 2010).

However, an international report about research, innovation and higher education, including Spain and most Latin American Countries (CINDA, 2011), has shown the existence of small research communities in several universities in Mexico, out of the four solid ones. These groups have been building networks to link them nationally and internationally. These findings provide evidence to feed an alternative policy to that which sustains the creation of Research Universities as a way to link universities within the internationalization process of higher education (Altbach & Pinto, 2007)

In this comparative perspective, on one hand, a formal HE policy analysis provides data about: i) institutional research leadership -mainly four of either solid HE institutions in Mexico or the older ones; ii) main international areas in within which these data shows HE policy achievement; iii) academic formal leadership; iv) access to funding, and the likely in order to fit international HE academic quality standards.

On the other hand it is possible to observe small research groups within a few HEI not included in the HE institutional leadership, where there are quite a few small active research groups linked to networks nationally and sometimes internationally.

The small research communities, matter of the study for this proposal, suggest that some more evidence could be found as much as to continue the study looking for some outcomes to feed HE policy design and focusing academic and research networks through disciplines and establishments in the HE System (Clark, 1982; Becher, 1989; Martínez Romo, 1992, 2005, 2010, 2011), sometimes beyond the more famous HEI or

Research Institutions (Altbach, 2007). These outcomes would provide a wider perspective for policy making to deal with global and local relevance further than usual institutional and national HE policy focus.

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