



# Approaches to fair trade in educational institutions in 2015

**Institution:** UNIMINUTO Principal Headquarter – Bogotá, Colombia

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**Find out more about fair trade at UNIMINUTO**

**What is your institution currently doing about fair trade and working conditions in supply chains? (procurement and product sales, awareness-raising, research, teaching, other?)**

The UNIMINUTO's fair trade and responsible consumption Group include several areas which work in fair trade and responsible consumption in the Corporación Universitaria Minuto de Dios – UNIMINUTO, Principal Headquarter: Agroecological Ingeniery Program, Education for the Development Center, Solidarity Economy School and Management Social Specialization.

1. AGROCOLOGICAL INGENIERY PROGRAM – AGROECOLOGICAL MARKETS PROJECT  
FERIA AGROECOLÓGICA Y TRUEQUE UNIMINUTO AND ALACENA (the last one is similar to solidarity basket):

The Agroecological Ingeniery program has worked in these experiences of agroecological markets since May, 2012. The fair and ALaCena work in five central points: agroecology, fair trade, responsible consumption, solidarity + ecological economy and food sovereignty.

The agroecological markets have been a commercial place for 30 (average) food producers, usually peasants and urban farmers, who come from rural areas in Bogotá and nearby cities (because the event promotes too the local economies).

The social objective of this project is to move closer the agroecological food to the consumer, without marketing intermediaries and promoting the access to information about the origin, the production method and about who produce this food. In this way, producers earn much better for their work and consumers access to better food (nutritive and without toxics) with fair prices, while protect the environmental and the national agriculture.

The academic objective is to have a place where the students learn about agroecological markets in the praxeological focus, so the students do the plan, the operation and the evaluation of the fair and ALaCena, with the producers and with some consumers in the agrarian market class of Agroecological Ingeniery program.

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The research objective is to generate and to share knowledge about: agroecology, fair trade, responsible consumption, ecological economy, ecological + solidarity economy, food sovereignty, consumer's networks, agroecological transition, participative organic/social certification, food innocuousness, nutrition, etc.

## 2. EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CED)

This center is attached to Social Projection in UNIMINUTO, the unit responsible for leading processes of formation and research, under the pedagogical approach of Education for Development in Latin American perspective (EpDL) a Model of citizenship Education (FC) that promotes critical and active citizenship exercise, and ethical and political perspective of the University social Responsibility (RSU) , strengthens capacities of incidence, transformation and social impact on students, communities and organizations civil society.

This unit leads the Practice in Social Responsibility, a cross- subject and compulsory for all UNIMINUTO technological and professional programs , and aims to “strengthen the social dimension of life project” of the students, generating reflections before “reality social of the country, in a global- local relationship to interact, invigorate and contribute to social transformation with ethical and responsible criteria”.

The Education Centre for Development CED - UNIMINUTO within their practice in social responsibility develops the project Fair Trade and Responsible Consumption , which aims to promote ideas and practices in the subjects face and consumption patterns imposed by the market logic, in order to influence the dynamics of the local economy.

Currently the project has the participation of various social, environmental and cultural organizations as well as the Faculty of Engineering through the Agroecological Fair and the Faculty of Business Administration, through the School of Solidarity Economy.

Every six months the project 35 students in career and technology programs of the modality of UNIMINUTO headquarters are linked; and 200 participants among children s, youth and adults from different communities. With whom we work around the ethical, political, economic and environmental fair trade and responsible consumption implications as well as having the power and consumers to transform and influence the market logic.

The lines of action of the project and Responsible Consumption and Fair Trade are:

- Productivity conscious shared, which seeks to establish minimum ethical and reciprocity involving all living beings that are part of the economic cycle of life.
- Supportive and informed, focuses on recognizing and understanding the power that the consumer and to transform and influence the market logic Communities.
- Participation in the Bureau of Fair Trade and Responsible Consumption UNIMINUTO headquarters, which aims to position the trade fair and responsible consumption from teaching, applied research and outreach in interaction with stakeholders UNIMINUTO, community and interagency stakeholders in the topic.

**What plans do you have, or what would you like to do in future regarding fair trade in your institution?**

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## 3. SOLIDARITY ECONOMY SCHOOL

Institutional procurement: COSURCA organization (insufficient information).

## 4. SOCIAL MANAGEMENT SPECIALIZATION

Information is not available.

**What plans do you have, or what would you like to do in future regarding fair trade in your institution?**

## 1. AGROCOLOGICAL INGENIERY PROGRAM

Currently, we are strengthening the fair and ALaCena and promoting new alternatives markets for agroecological food, working together with peasants, small farmers, consumers, students and teachers. The idea is to continue with the Feria Agroecológica and trueque UNIMINUTO, ALaCena, institucional procurement and the coffee machine, because are complementary proposals for fair trade, but we have a new strategy, a new idea to distribute organic food and other fair trade products. The project is to create a pedagogic store in UNIMINUTO for fair trade and responsible consumption. This store will be manage by a cooperative composed of students and professionals of UNIMINUTO, who will work with several producers and consumers to strengthening the fair trade and responsible consumption in the academic community. The idea is to put stores in each headquarters of UNIMINUTO and in each Minuto de Dios's neighborhood around the country. In these stores, the academic community will develop too several researchers about fair trade and responsible consumption.

## 2. CENTRO DE EDUCACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO (CED)

The project Fair Trade and Responsible Consumption is projected to strengthen its four lines of action through the following actions:



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- Consolidation of community and organizational scenarios in which fair trade practices and promotes responsible consumption as a critical and active citizenship. Through the generation of training and information spaces with the actors involved in the local economy on their practices and forms of consumption.
- Articulation and strengthening networks and groups fair and conscious at local and regional level exchange. Through participation in networks, groups and communities of fair trade and solidarity economy locally.
- Position the fair trade and responsible consumption at the institutional level through the development of academic, research and outreach in the framework of the practice in social responsibility and coordination with the Fair Trade for Agroecology and UNIMINUTO and Red Cupboard and school of Solidarity Economy.
- Strengthen and consolidate Campaign with Power Consumption at the institutional level to foster real exercises fair trade and responsible consumption as barter fairs and / or eco-design, generation of solidarity coins and conducting academic events

## 3. SOLIDARITY ECONOMY SCHOOL

Information is not available.

## 4. SOCIAL MANAGEMENT SPECIALIZATION

Information is not available.