

# Tec launches Living Lab and Data Hub, spaces for educational research



A **space** to experiment with **subjects** in **real life** and a **space** to provide **real data** on **education** for researchers are now part of the [Institute for the Future of Education](#) initiatives at [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#).

Both projects were presented by **Héctor Ceballos**, Director of **Living Lab** and **Data Hub**.

*“The **main objective** is to do **experimental research** within the **Tec**. We have two components: the **Living Lab**, which is a co-creation environment, and the **Data Hub**, which aims to provide researchers with information,”* said Ceballos

The **presentation** was at the panel **“Adoption of learning analytics in Latin America: Opportunities and Barriers,”** held during the **8th annual [International Conference on Educational Innovation \(CIIE\)](#)** at the Tec.



width="900" loading="lazy">

### Spaces for educational research

During the presentation, Ceballos explained that the **Living Lab** is a **space** and an **open-source platform** that aims to integrate the work of **researchers, companies, teachers, and students**.

One of the Living Lab goals is to conduct **real-life research** and **measure its impact**.

Ceballos says that the objective of the Living Lab is to articulate **experimentation** in **terms of data** and educational **technologies**.

*"We'll have a **panel** of **academics** and **experts** on the subject that will support us to prepare the call, and we'll create a space where researchers can interact.*

*"With the stage ready, people would come to make proposals and we'll collect and **provide** the **information** for them so that everyone can do their research," he said.*

Meanwhile, the **Data Hub** is a **repository** of **institutional data** prepared, curated and anonymized to provide researchers with real information that's helpful in investigating how students are learning.

This anonymous information has been taken from more than **500,000 students** at **undergraduate, graduate, and PrepaTec levels** at **Tec de Monterrey** from around **41 campuses** and **high schools** over the last **25 years**.

**Demographics, admission exams, academic history, scholarships, and dropout rates** are part of the **anonymous data** mentioned by Ceballos that have been compiled in the Data Hub.

## IFE Living Lab



Participate in our **calls** for experimentation.

- Open data
- Educational technologies

Supported by an academic advisory board

Submit your results to a Special Issue in a high-impact Journal.

<https://ifelldh.tec.mx/en/calls>

width="900" loading="lazy">

### Already working on some projects

Similarly, the director invited **companies** that have **technologies** and want to **test** them *en masse* to come for the support of experts in the area who can evaluate their technology.

Ceballos said that the information is **first** allocated to **researchers** from **Tec de Monterrey**.

However, he points out that **researchers from outside** the institution who want to **participate** can forge **partnerships** with researchers from the Tec to develop joint projects and access this data.

Currently, they are already working on some **projects**, such as an analysis of **school dropout rates** using **anonymous data** from **Tec de Monterrey** to develop predictive models that can provide **early warnings**.

They are also working on a project to test and evaluate the use of **remote laboratories** that will be published between February and March 2022.

What's more, they give **monthly presentations** on the **challenges** of **education and technologies**.

Ceballos says that in the future, they aim **to develop projects** related to **Virtual Reality** or **Augmented Reality**, **virtual laboratories**, and **simulations**, among others.

## IFE Data Hub



- Check available data and request new data integrations.
- Request custom data files for your research.
- Archive your research data in an open repository.

<https://ifelldh.tec.mx/en/data-hub>

width="900" loading="lazy">

### The panel on learning analytics in Latin America

The aim of the panel was to raise awareness regarding **advances** in the **use of analytics** within **regional** and **global learning**.

Those who participated were **Claudia Camacho**, Tec professor; **Jorge Maldonado-Mahuad**, associate professor at the University of Basins; and **Nicholas Elton**, uPlanner Business Development administrator, as well as **Héctor Ceballos**.

*“Educational participants such as institutions, teachers, and the students themselves interpret, **analyze, visualize, and execute data** so that they can decide how to go about learning,”* said Camacho.

Also, Maldonado claimed that the **intention** of using data in education is not only a tool but also **aims to provide evidence** to help improve **educational processes**.

*“The solution isn’t in the **design** of the **tool** but in how we use the tool to help us mediate the **learning process**.”*

*“So, **decisions** are made by the **teacher** and not by the computer. The software only **helps** us and **supports** us in these **decisions**,”* said Maldonado.



width="900" loading="lazy">

## Challenges and goals of data use in Latin America

According to Camacho, seeing the **paths taken** by students participating in online courses and knowing how students **interact** with their **peers** and **colleagues** are some of the things that are important to know that can be found out through data.

However, Nicholas Elton says that one of the **main challenges** in the use of **analytics** within **education** in **LATAM** is the **limited availability** of **databases** and that most of them are still very basic.

*“Mainly in **Latin America**. That makes **collecting data difficult** and projects are sometimes more about collecting these data rather than analyzing them.*

*“In other regions such as **Europe** or **North America**, it’s more advanced, but there’s still a gap in **Latin America**,” he said.*

Similarly, Ceballos added that some **universities** still do not feel **ready** to **use these data** and that part of the work done by the **DataHub** and the **Living Lab** is to provide an opportunity to use these spaces.

*“We’ll be sending out **calls** through the **observatory** and our **website**,” said Ceballos.*

*“In other regions such as **Europe** or **North America**, it’s more advanced, but there’s still a gap in **Latin America**.”*

**Tec de Monterrey’s eighth annual CIIE**

This is Tec de Monterrey's **eighth [International Conference on Educational Innovation](#)**.

The event takes place **annually**. This time, it was held in a **hybrid format** for four days from **December 13 to 16, 2021**.

*“(The **CIIE**) has established itself as an **outstanding space** for the **meeting of professionals** from different parts of the world... We involve everyone who shares the **responsibility** of creating the future of education,”* said José Escamilla, director of the Tec's Institute for the Future of Education.

This year, more than **5,000 attendees** participated with the opportunity to listen to discussions and keynotes on **education**.

#### **READ MORE:**

<https://tec.mx/en/news/national/education/5-ways-build-student-centered-educational-ecosystem>