CONCURSO INTERNACIONAL UNIVERSITARIO
RETOS DEL HÁBITAT POPULAR EN EL SUR GLOBAL CONTEMPORÁNEO: COMUNIDADES RESILIENTES
CIU HABITAT

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HABITAT III – Quito 2016

Quito, capital of the Republic of Ecuador: Independence Square.

CHALLENGES OF MARGINAL HABITAT IN THE CONTEMPORARY SOUTHERN GLOBE:
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

ECUADOR IN THE WORLD

The Republic of Ecuador is a country located in north western South America. Bordered by Colombia on the north, Peru on the east and south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. With a population of 15,832,913 inhabitants, it has the most population density in South America and the biggest concentration of rivers per square kilometer in the world; as well as the most biodiversity per square kilometer of the planet. Ecuador is also known as the country located in the middle of the world since it is intersected by the equator.

Ecuador has four main geographic regions: The coastal region by the Pacific Ocean, the highlands or Interandean region with its volcanoes and all of its peaks, the eastern region or Amazon jungle region, and the region comprising the Galápagos Islands also known as the Colon Archipelago, located 1,120 kilometers (696 mi) west of the mainland into the Pacific Ocean.
HABITAT III

The General Assembly of the United Nations convenes the Habitat Conference every 20 years in order to discuss, make resolutions on, and establish commitments towards a global sustainable urban agenda. In the 66/207 resolution, and following the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 y 2016), it was decided to convene the Habitat III Conference. By means of the A/RES/69/226 resolution of December 2014, it was decided that the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) would take place in Quito, Ecuador from October 17th to October 20th, 2016. This takes into account the designation of Quito as the first city declared World Cultural Heritage in 1978. The conference constitutes the most important United Nations event in the matter of urban development and seeks to ensure a worldwide political commitment to sustainable urban development and to identifying the new urban challenges for the establishment and creation of a New Urban Agenda for the XXI century.

Habitat III will become – aside from the Sustainable Innovation Forum COP21- the first worldwide United Nations summit after the embracement of the post-2015 Development Agenda. This will offer a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenge of planning and managing the cities, towns and villages of the world, with the intention of working as engines for sustainable development in a planet that becomes more urbanized each day.

The Habitat III Conference will be open to all the Member States of the United Nations, inviting them to facilitate processes in order to allow the wide participation of the interested parties, including local authorities and their associations, in the development, revision and application of National Urban Policies, as groundwork for Habitat III. We believe that the fact that Quito has been selected as the headquarters for Habitat III is a form of appreciation, on behalf of the United Nations of the predisposed commitment
expressed by the Ecuadorian Government on sustainable urban development, which encourages us to deal, with great determination, with the challenges of an urbanized reality.

Organizers

MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING – MIDUVI

The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MIDUVI) of Ecuador is in charge of providing suitable and sustainable habitat for populations in urbanized and rural areas. It is also responsible for developing economic activities and housing plans that follow accordingly the current national regulations and policies.

The aim of the MIDUVI management is to contribute to the country’s development by formulating policies, regulations, plans, programmes and projects that guarantee a National System of Human Settlements, sustained in a system of housing and basic services that will consolidate inclusive cities. According to the established guidelines in the National Constitution and the National Development Plan, the ministry intends to facilitate access to adequate universal housing and basic services especially for priority attention groups and promoting the improvement of housing in precarious settlements.

The central government by collaboration of the MIDUVI, is in charge of being the counterpart to the United Nations as host for the organization and execution of the Habitat III Conference which constitutes the world’s most transcendent summit about housing and sustainable urban development.

THE ECUADORIAN ARCHITECT ASSOCIATION PICHINCHA PROVINCE (CAE-P)

The Ecuadorian Architect Association Pichincha Province (CAE-P) is an institution founded in 1962 as a collegiate body that has various objectives such as: a) promoting the excellence in the practice of architecture to a national level; b) cooperating with the planned development of cities and the quality of architecture projects executed in them.

A part of the institutional management functions of the Ecuadorian Architect Association Pichincha Province (CAE-P) has been for several years to collaborate with some of the country’s public and private institutions to promote the execution of national and international contests of ideas and preliminary projects oriented to improve and satisfy the quality of living conditions of populations in the sustainable development scene. This has been done following the general regulations of the law for the professional practice of Architecture.
Terms of the Competition

GENERAL PRESENTATION

Ecuador, as well as the Region, has experienced an accelerated process of urbanization that has unleashed an imbalance between urban and rural populations. That is why, in the framework of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development Habitat III, that will take place in Quito, Ecuador on October 2016, the goal is to evaluate the progress of the Habitat Program agreed in Istanbul in 1996. It is essential to ensure the political commitment of the member states of the United Nations on the subject of sustainable urban development through the construction of a New Urban Agenda, which becomes a unique opportunity to reconsider the strategies and policies that have addressed the urban development and the generation of housing in the country, the region and the world.

The National Government of Ecuador, through the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and in collaboration with the Ecuadorian Architect Association, Pichincha Province CAE-P, has found the need to invite the academia to the Preliminary Projects Competition: CHALLENGES OF MARGINAL HABITAT IN THE CONTEMPORARY SOUTHERN GLOBE: RESILIENT COMMUNITIES. The purpose of the competition is to obtain innovative proposals of intervention on human settlements that present common problems for various regions of the world; trusting that the resulting products will contribute to the foundation of policies and strategies for habitat and housing, facing the great challenges brought by an urbanized and complex reality that requires a truly sustainable urban development.

1 OBJECTIVE OF THE COMPETITION

INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVE

The MIDUVI and the Ecuadorian Architecture Association (CAE-P), as part of the national preparation process for Habitat III, invite the world’s academic community to assemble interdisciplinary teams to be a part of this pedagogical academic process. Such teams can consist of designers, urban planners, ecologists, environmentalists, biologists, scientists, specialists in risk and disaster management, students and professors of Architecture and Urbanism schools and universities. The teams will develop preliminary design proposals to solve three current issues of the Ecuadorian popular habitat: human settlements with environmental degradation, vulnerable settlements in risk due to volcanic activity, and highly marginal and precarious urban settlements.

Habitat III presents an opportunity to consider real and specific cases that imply difficult solving challenges, in a creative way with academic innovation. The objective is to obtain technical and conceptual
contributions that allow to rethink existing interventions and generate elements that help improve the creation process of housing and public habitat policies in Ecuador. A pragmatic case study for each problematic has been selected with the objective that the solutions of design and planning created for each case can be adapted or replicated in equivalent situations in Ecuador as well as other regions of the world.

![Image](source: Technical Secretariat of the Competition STC, 2016)

## 2 THE COMPETITION

**PROPOSALS OF SUSTAINABLE INTERVENTIONS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, ON SETTLEMENTS WITH VULNERABILITY AND RISK, AND SETTLEMENTS IN MARGINAL PRECARIOUS URBAN AREAS**

Global urban conditions have changed radically in the past 20 years due to an urbanization process that has no precedent. According to the United Nations, an estimated of 66% of the human population will live in cities by 2050. Most of these cities are located in the southern hemisphere (Southern Globe) and their particular conditions have not been fully understood by models applied from the vision of developed countries. The proposal to imagine and manage a more sustainable future for our cities needs to consider the particular reality of urbanization in tropical and sub-tropical areas, where the planet’s biggest slums are located.

This competition invites its participants to consider in a pragmatic and creative way three problems that Ecuador currently faces. The characteristics of such issues are analogous to other similar regions of the world. The main goal is to impulse a global dialog within the urban planning and design sphere, bearing in mind the specific challenges that the characteristics of the region impose to the paradigms we are used to deal with when considering recurrent issues on emerging settlements. In order to build a truly sustainable future for many communities, this settlements need to be rethought and renewed.

These communities live either in mangrove swamps that experience constant flooding; in high risk areas due to volcanic activity; or are settled on marginal urban areas and are being relocated in new collective
housing that does not necessarily reproduce the social network of the place of origin. For these communities, the introduction and participation of this development process should not imply a loss of the resilience in their traditional lives. Coastal communities for example, depend on the water for living, it is part of their roots and defines their way of life. Andean communities oppose to being relocated in low volcanic risk areas so they do not fall away from their way of living and traditions. Communities living by the Salado (Salty Edge) estuary prefer to live in precarious conditions, but close to their families and friends.

3 ELIGIBILITY

The organizing institutions invite to participate in the International University Preliminary Projects Competition CIU HABITAT. The invitation is open to students and professionals from worldwide universities that have Schools of Architecture, Urbanism, Design, Territorial and Urban Planning, Geography, Ecology and environment, Risk Management and related subjects. To be eligible to participate:

- Students need to be enrolled in a university of any country that has a school of Architecture, Urbanism, Design, Territorial and Urban Planning, Geography and / or professions in subjects related to the competition.
- Students must be in their last two years of their university studies; this requirement would be under the responsibility of the team leader.
- For architects, urbanists, designers, geographers and other professionals in related subjects, as long as they are involved as members of the academic staff of a school of Architecture, Urbanism, Design, Territorial and Urban Planning, Geography, Ecology and Environment, Risk Management and / or subjects related to the competition, as professors.
- For Ecuadorian and foreign professionals and students, that reside in Ecuador or in foreign countries, willing to participate as long as they conform interdisciplinary teams led by a professional that is part of the academic staff of a University. In the case of professionals or master’s students, they may be part of a team in the form of external partners. These people do not have to be either professors or university students, but they are called to help the team in the developing of the preliminary project. They can participate only 3 external partners per team.
- There is no limit for the number of team members nor the number of teams per university that can participate.

National or foreign team leaders must present a certificate from the academic authority of the school or faculty they belong to in order to demonstrate their role as member of the academic staff. Attached to the certificate must be a copy of the identity document (DNI/ID) of the team leader. Both documents must be scanned in a single file. The participation of any professional as an individual that does not meet these requirements will not be accepted.
4 AWARDS OF THE PRELIMINARY PROJECTS COMPETITION

For each of the 3 themes of the competition, the Jury will select amongst all participant teams three finalists without any particular order. The jury will afterwards, select one winner out of the finalists.

- The Jury committee will designate the winner of the competition for each one of the themes through a written document.
- The second and third place for each theme of the competition will be designated as well on a written document.
- The winning team’s academic leader, along with one of its members will have the opportunity to come to Quito as guests to present their project in one of the parallel events organized by Ecuador in the Habitat III Agenda. Flight tickets and stay in a 5-star hotel will be covered by the contest organizers. They will also have the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion about their proposal and the problematic of Marginal Habitat in the Southern Globe, in academic or institutional spaces.
- The proposals of the three finalists for each theme will be uploaded to the competition’s official website with its corresponding recognition.
- The proposals of the three finalist for each theme will be displayed in an exhibition held during Habitat III along with executed projects that participate in the Social Habitat category for Quito’s Pan-American Architecture Biennial (BAQ-2016) organized by CAE-P.
- All participating proposals will be showed on the website of the competition.

The designation of awards in the competition does not imply any commitment on behalf of the promoter or organizing institution with the author or team members for the execution of the proposals. Neither with the teams that obtain the second place and third place or any awarded proposals.

As testimony of the Habitat conference, the promoting institution, MIDUVI will sponsor a publication that will gather the most important features of the conference and the most outstanding aspects of the competition for every theme. The publication will be sent to all Universities, Schools and teams that participate in the International University Preliminary Projects Competition.

5 JURY COMMITTEE

The organizing institution will take into consideration the academic and multidisciplinary nature of the competition and will select professionals with different profiles and experience as well as prestigious academics to be the members for the jury on each theme of the competition. Each jury committee will have national and international members and will be composed of five renowned professionals with trajectory
and experience in the theme of the competition. The committee will include two national professionals and three international professionals that may or not be architects, maintaining gender equality.

The Jury’s final decision will be announced at a public act held in Quito, Ecuador on September 30th 2016. The interpretation of the competition’s criteria will be responsibility of each established Jury Committee. The Jury’s decision is final and not appealable.

6 MODE OF THE COMPETITION

The organizing institutions have defined the competition as: International University Competition of Preliminary Projects, with 1 phase, 3 themes and 1 category (academic). It will be developed online through the competition’s website: www.ciuhabitat.com. The competition will allow the simultaneous participation in three themes of different nature. The contestants can decide if they participate in one, two or all three themes of the competition. All teams will be able to obtain all available information for the elaboration of the proposals through the website.

The competition will be developed in two languages given its international nature: English and Spanish. All documentation relevant to the competition will be submitted online in those two languages. The three most innovative proposals will be chosen without any particular order, as long as all the requirements in demand in the terms of the competition have been resolved. The jury will finally choose the winning proposal for each theme of the competition among the finalists.

7 TIMETABLE AND DATES OF THE COMPETITION

Terms of the Competition available online since: April 4th 2016.
Registration opening: April 5th 2016.
Registration deadline: August 5th 2016.
Preliminary Projects submission deadline: Theme 1 of the Competition: August 16th 2016.
Theme 2 of the Competition: August 17th 2016.
Theme 3 of the Competition: August 18th 2016.
Jury committee rating period: between August 22nd and September 23rd 2016.
Jury committee verdict for all themes: September 30th 2016.
8 REGISTRATION TO THE COMPETITION

- All time periods for deadlines will be considered from 9:00 until 23:59 (Quito GMT -5.00).
- Registration for the competition will be made online using the official registration form through the website: www.ciuhabitat.com
- Participating teams must submit through the website all the documentation that accredits the fulfilment of all requirements stated in the terms of the competition, chapter V.
- The registration for the competition has a cost of 400.00 US Dollars (Ecuadorian Taxes included) for each of the competition themes.
- The deadline for the registration in the competition for all themes is August 5th, 2016.
- Each professional team leader will receive an email confirmation for their registration by the Competition’s Technical Secretariat (STC) after submitting all the information which will accredit the team to participate in the competition and in the chosen theme.
- Note: Once the registration payment has been made by the participating team, this fee will not be refunded under any circumstance.

9 REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESENTATION

This requirements are established to recognize the participation of the teams according to the academic nature of the competition and also to allow the Jury committees to evaluate the proposals by providing all the necessary information. The Competition’s Technical Secretariat (STC) will present a report qualifying the suitability of the participants preceding the process of evaluation by the Jury.

- All elements of the proposal must be submitted completely online, in one single submission and in one single folder.
- Any modification, alteration or addition to the originally presented proposal will not be accepted.
- In order to fulfil with the requirements for participation, all contestants must fill the forms and documents presented in the terms of the competition, Chapter V: Regulations of the Competition.
- Every registration allows the presentation of only one proposal for the competition.
- Proposals will be presented digitally in 2 (two) DIN A0 format sheets (118.9cm x 84.1cm) portrait orientated (vertically) and must be submitted online through the website of the competition.
- The digital files for the sheets containing all graphic information must be presented in DIN A0 format, saved in high resolution PDF format (150 dpi minimum), with a maximum file size of 30MB per sheet.
• The deadlines for submission of the proposals for themes 1, 2 and 3 are August 16th, 17th and 18th 2016, until 23:59 Quito time (GMT -5.00), according to each theme of the competition.
• The sheets for the final proposal must include a summarized text that justifies the preliminary project (maximum 800 words).
• The technique for the presentation is free. The participating teams can choose any technique among 2D plans, photographs, free hand perspectives, photomontage, collages and 3D images.

10 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Throughout the competition, participating teams can submit questions taking into consideration that:

• The reception of questions, answers and clarifications will be exclusively made online through the email: preguntasconcurso@ciuhabitat.com.
• The questions and consultations must only be related to the terms of the competition, its definitions and regulations. They must be submitted in the section: ‘Questions and Answers’ of the inscription platform of the Competition.
• The questions will be asked between April 5th to July 29th, 2016.
• All answers will be published on the competition website during the established time period.
• The Competition’s Technical Secretariat (STC) on behalf of the organizing institutions reserves the right to edit any questions before their publication on the website as well as the right to avoid responding to all questions that might be inappropriate or redundant.

11 LANGUAGES OF THE COMPETITION

The official languages of the competition are English and Spanish, therefore:

• The terms of the competition and all possible information relevant will be presented online in both languages.
• Questions about the competition can be made in either English or Spanish.
• Online answers will be presented in English and Spanish.
• The contents in the sheets regarding supporting information and texts for the presentation of the proposals, can be presented in English or Spanish.

If any discrepancies shall exist regarding the interpretation of the terms of the competition or any related information, the Spanish version will prevail. The exhibition of the winning proposals in Quito, will be presented in the language used by the participant.
12 AUTHORSHIP OF THE PRELIMINARY PROJECTS AND CONSENT

- The proposals submitted by the participants for the competition, must be original works and must not fall under any national or international copyright infringement.
- By completing the registration on the competition, the participating teams guarantee the authorship of all the submitted work to the International University Competition of Preliminary Projects and confirm that they have not been partially or totally modified from any other project.
- The contestants declare that the use and presentation of their proposals will not infringe copyrights of third parties according to the terms of this competition.
- The participants authorize the organizing institutions of the competition to use and/or publish the proposals in the name of the authors once the competition is finished without receiving any compensation, economical or otherwise, in exchange.
- By registering in each theme of the competition, the participants accept all the terms and conditions implied in the competition.

13 GUARANTEE OF THE COMPETITION

The promoting authority of the competition MIDUVI, guarantees the participants that the competition WILL NOT be annulled, and that each theme of the competition will have a winner designated by the Jury at the end of the preliminary projects presentation. Therefore, the first place will not be withhold and neither will there be a shared award. Consequently, there will be a first, second and third place for each theme.
Themes of the Competition

THEME 1

ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM FOR SETTLEMENTS IN MANGROVE ECOSYSTEMS IN THE GULF OF GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR.

Case study: Mangrove ecosystem in the Gulf of Guayaquil – Puerto Roma.

CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND

There are 19 settlements in the Gulf of Guayaquil of three scales: small (2-5 families), medium (6-15 families) and large (15-30 families). Its main issues have to do with the connectivity to the nearest city, the difficulty to access basic services and social services, the vulnerability of the ecosystem on site, and the precariousness of the infrastructure and the economic and social systems.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Besides rethinking a housing project for this area that requires a proposal capable of adapting to life in land and water, to high tides and draughts, there is a need to develop a provisory services system (energy, water supply, waste management) that helps reduce the vulnerability of the structures that cover the basic life needs of this fishermen. It is very important that such micro-structures are low-cost and easily manufactured by locals in order for them to be sustainable.

For services such as education and public health –amongst others with a communal, social and cultural character- an integrated system (fluvial) of transport, main hubs and services would have to be considered.
It is vital to define the hubs where these services will be located (medical center, school, administrative community center, police station, sports and recreation center, etc.) in a strategic way. Following this concept, the idea would be to create a “network city or archipelago city”, where all settlements are connected and complemented in order to impulse their economies collectively.

Puerto Roma is the main settlement with the larger number of inhabitants living mainly from fishing and commercial activities. Their living conditions are the most precarious therefore, the most urgent to be dealt with. There are constant floods however, it has the right conditions to develop a sustainable community with positive development prospects because of the active participation of its residents.
THEME 2

ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM FOR SETTLEMENTS IN HIGH VOLCANIC RISK AREAS IN THE PROXIMITY OF THE TUNGURAHAU VOLCANO, ECUADOR.

Case study: Community of Cotalo Parish – Vicinity of the Tungurahua Volcano.

CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND

Ecuador as an Andean country is located in the Ring of Fire or circum-Pacific belt, therefore it is permanently affected by a large number natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that have caused huge damage and losses to many communities. Volcanoes in Ecuador have defined the use and occupation of the land that surrounds them.

The communities located in high risk volcanic zones near by the Tungurahua Volcano, in the Tungurahua province in Ecuador, have been part of various relocation projects in low risk areas. However, these houses have only been partially occupied, in some cases as temporary shelters when the volcano is clearly active. This process has been constantly repeating for the past 15 years.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

This competition sets up the challenge to redesign settlements for high-risk volcanic areas taking into consideration the idiosyncrasy of the communities of the Cotalo Parish in the conceptual framework. For these communities, it is very important that the governing bodies and official institutions in charge of housing and risk management, understand their ancestral worldview in order to reflect it in feasible projects.
The competition aims to obtain proposals that involve collective construction, promote a culture of prevention and the generation of practices from the community that strengthens the idea that sustainability, risk management and development are valid options to consider and implement.

In the specific case of communities by the Tungurahua Volcano, there are various reasons that prevent them from accepting a relocation in low-risk areas. The separation from what they consider the land of their ancestors, access to agricultural land and an overall fear of their houses and animals being stolen in their absence, influences on their rejection to new settlement projects.
Theme 3

Architecture and urbanism with housing solutions in marginal urban settlements of Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Case study: Settlements on the Salado (Salty Edge) Estuary in the city of Guayaquil.

Conceptual background

Many of the population of the Salado Estuary in the south of Guayaquil that lived in stilt houses or palafittes in flooding areas where relocated in projects of collective housing developed by the Government of Ecuador. Even though it was imperative to develop a project that would recuperate the ecosystem of the estuary, as well as improve the quality of life of this population settled in precarious high risk areas, by illegal occupation and informal filling of the estuaries; the relocation of the community created a situation of excessive uprooting. The inhabitants where moved to a different area of the city, breaking their social bonds and generating living problems.

Conceptual Framework

Given this past experience, residents are asking to be relocated on-site, in a place as close as possible to the one they currently occupy. The Ecuadorian government has agreed to make this alternative viable. Two zones have been determined for relocation, without denying the possibility to propose different alternatives in the competition. For example, generating multi-story housing –taking into consideration the resistance of the soil- in developments at the edge that relate to existing public spaces that have been created at the margins of the estuaries or the relocation in areas that are already populated but could get densified by proposing improvements to communal areas (often occupied by gangs).
This competition requires the reformulation of the criteria regarding interventions on river banks. Also to consider that the linear park that is generated at the banks of the estuaries gets integrated to the existing urban fabric. The idea is to generate a sort of ecological acupuncture that will create a micro system of opportunities to tackle the estrangement that overcrowding has caused by mending the estuaries, as well as decontaminating the water and generating a new system along the banks that prevents future fillings with human settlements.
Frequently asked questions – FAQ

Is the competition open to all Universities of the World?

Yes, any University that has a school or faculty of Architecture, Urbanism, Design, Territorial and Urban Planning, Geography, Ecology and environment, Risk Management and related subjects can participate in the International University Competition of Preliminary Projects.

Who can participate in the competition?

Students enrolled at a University or faculty in any related subject to the competition and in their last two years of their university studies. They must be led by a professional that is part of the academic staff of a University.

The students that are part of the teams must be students of architecture or urbanism?

No, the teams should be interdisciplinary therefore, university students can be studying related subjects to the themes they are participating on.

Are teams able to participate in one or three themes of the competition with one registration?

No, each registration gives each team the opportunity to participate in one theme of the competition. Each theme requires an individual registration.

Can a team leader be the tutor of various different interdisciplinary teams?

Yes, one tutor can lead one, two or three different teams. It could be for the same theme or for all three themes of the competition.

Is there a maximum number of team members?

No, the number of team members is decided by the tutor.

Is the competition free or is there a fee for participation?

The competition is not free. In order to be able to participate, there is a registration fee of $ 400.00 US Dollars (including Ecuadorian taxes).

How can the registration fee be paid?

For national or foreign universities that wish to make the payment online, the service will be made through PayPal. Ecuadorian contestants can pay directly in the Treasury of the College of Architects in Quito, or by deposit in the current account No. 005525578 of Proudbanco. For bank deposit, the receipt must be attached in the registration form. For foreign universities, the payment will be made through the online service PayPal.
Is there a time limit for the registration to the competition?

Yes, the deadline for the competition registration is August 5th, 2016.

How are the proposals for the competition submitted?

The submission of the proposals for all themes of the competition has to be made online.

What is the official language for the competition?

The official languages of the competition are: English and Spanish.

Is it possible to involve professionals or master's students in the competition?

Yes, there is a possibility that the team has an external partner. This person does not have to be either professor or university student, but he is called to help the team in the developing of the preliminary project. They can participate only 3 external partners per team. Also, the external partners could be the sponsors of the team as is mentioned in a segment of the registration page. The team leader or tutor must be a professional that is part of the academic staff of a University.