

Pilot 2019: Start-up funding Global South -. Project report

"Sustainable Building Bolivia" - International Network for Sustainable Building in Latin America

- **Subject area at the TU Berlin:** Design and building science
- **Partner countries:** Bolivia, Peru
- **Partner institutions:** Bolivia: Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS), Universidad Técnica de Oruro (UTO), Universidad Autónoma Juan Misael Saracho (UAJMS); Peru: Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de América Latina (UCAL), Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería (UNI)
- **Priority Addressed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**



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SDG 4: Quality education

SDG 5: Gender equality

SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities

The ecological footprint of the construction industry is enormous. The construction industry consumes 40 percent of global resources, some of which are already in very short supply. The dramatic shortage of sand, for example, has meant that it is often mined illegally, especially in the countries of the Global South, and becomes a smuggled commodity.

The aim of the project idea at the Department of Design and Building Studies at TU Berlin is to find concrete architecturally suitable answers for the specific context of Latin America in order to promote sustainable building there. Within the framework of an international transdisciplinary research project on steel frame buildings in the improvised (and informal, self-constructed) cities of Latin America, Prof. Jacob van Rijs and Dr.- Ing. Lorena Valdivia, together with their international university partners* from Latin America and Europe, aim in particular to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 Quality Education, 5 Gender Equality and 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities. In addition, the project contributes to SDGs 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production and 13 Climate Action.

An international network is to be established, which will reform the teaching at the interface of construction technology and architecture and contribute to the improvement of the innovation competences of all participating universities of the Global South and North in the field of teaching and research. Third-party funds are to be applied for together with partners from Bolivia, Peru and Chile. This is intended to support the capacity building of the participating partner universities from the three countries in the field of "sustainable building". The project aims to "decolonize" the teaching of architecture, to integrate local and regional know-how, and to introduce innovative approaches to cooperation and vocational training. Furthermore, the project wants to involve cooperatives of indigenous women construction workers in their role as main breadwinners within the families.

The start-up funding for the promotion of cooperations with partners in the Global South of the TU Berlin supported the department to undertake a trip to Bolivia to meet with the Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS), the Universidad Técnica de Oruro (UTO) as well as the Universidad Autónoma Juan Misael Saracho (UAJMS) to meet the project partners, to consolidate the consortium and to develop concrete joint ideas and projects. Among other things, it was agreed to strengthen the competencies of Bolivian universities and to develop joint innovative approaches to the "post-fossil city". Furthermore, it is intended to contribute to the strengthening of curriculum development, modernization and internationalization of architectural teaching in Bolivia. Due to the unrest in Bolivia at the end of 2019, the trip had to be postponed and shortened. Contrary to the original plans, a meeting with the Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de América Latina (UCAL) and the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería (UNI) in Lima, Peru was arranged at short notice.