

LACCEI wishes you a Christmas filled with peace and gratitude and a New Year brimming with shared achievements. Let us continue moving forward together, promoting education, innovation, and development that will allow us to continue building together a more innovative and inclusive engineering sector, at the service of our nations



LEIRD 2025: Key Highlights

Cartagena, Colombia, hosted the **5th International Multiconference LEIRD 2025**, bringing together academics, researchers, students, and institutional representatives to discuss advances and challenges in entrepreneurship, innovation, and regional development.

This edition reached record numbers, underscoring its growing relevance across the region. A total of **1,137 papers were submitted**, with **487 full papers accepted** following a rigorous review process.

In the student competition, **53 projects were accepted**, culminating in **three winning teams** recognized for their quality, impact, and originality. Additionally, the **top 16 student projects** advanced to a **pre-incubation process**, receiving specialized mentoring to further strengthen their proposals.

LEIRD 2025 welcomed participants from **16 countries and 112 institutions**, consolidating its position as a truly international academic space that fosters collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the development of high-impact initiatives.

With these results, LEIRD reaffirms its commitment to nurturing young entrepreneurs, strengthening institutional capacities, and generating knowledge that supports sustainable development and regional competitiveness.

LACCEI extends its gratitude to all participating institutions and contributors to this successful edition and is already working toward **LEIRD 2026**, aiming to expand its reach and impact even further.

FUNDAMENTALS OF RAILWAY ENGINEERING

Dr. Aránzazu Berbey Alvarez, a researcher and professor at the Technological University of Panama and a member of LACCEI, launched her first engineering book, *"Fundamentals of Railway Engineering"* last August.

This book is the result of a grant Dr. Berbey received from the Carolina Foundation of Spain to undertake postdoctoral research in railway engineering at the University of Granada (Spain), alongside Dr. Francisco Calvo Poyo, a Spanish professor of railway engineering at the University of Granada.

LACCEI applauds this publication, a valuable example for generations of engineers.

