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Research quality assurance policy in the Ecuadorian Public Regional Universities: The case of the Manabí province

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Research quality assurance policy in the Ecuadorian Public Regional Universities: The case of the Manabí province

When the Ecuadorian Government introduced the research quality assurance policy to measure universities' performance, they assumed all higher education institutions were the same. This assumption still remains in force in the current legislation failing to recognize the diversity of higher education in Ecuador. This study provides the first definition of regional universities in the Ecuadorian context, identifying that they have a regional mission, vision, and a symbiotic relationship with their local communities. The study fills a gap in the research of regional universities and quality assurance, unveiling how the policy has shaped the higher education system and its challenges for this type of university.

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